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## In Terror-Wary NYC, Security Tight for Thanksgiving Parade

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sand-filled sanitation trucks and police sharpshooters will mix with glittering floats and giant balloons at a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that comes in a year of terrible mass shootings and not even a month after a deadly truck attack in lower Manhattan.

New York City's mayor and police brass have repeatedly stressed that layers of security, along with hundreds of officers, will be in place for one of the nation's biggest outdoor holiday gatherings, and that visitors should not be deterred.

"We had a couple of tough months as a nation," Police Commissioner James O'Neill said. "We won't ever accept such acts of hate and cowardice as inevitable in our society."

A posting last year in an English-language magazine of the Islamic State group, which took credit for the Oct. 31 truck attack that killed eight people, mentioned the Thanksgiving parade as "an excellent target."

"Authorities say there is no confirmation of a credible threat."

"I want to assure the people



Police officers stand near the site where balloons are being inflated for the Thanksgiving Day parade in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. Sand-filled sanitation trucks and police sharpshooters will mix with glittering floats and giant balloons at a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that comes in a year of terrible mass shootings and a deadly truck attack in lower Manhattan.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

that we swore to protect that anytime something happens anywhere in the world, the NYPD works with our law enforcement partners and studies it and we learn from it and it informs our decision making going forward," O'Neill said.

This year's security plan includes dozens of city sanitation trucks, which weigh about 16 tons empty and up to twice that with sand, that will be lined up as imposing barriers to traffic at every cross street along the 2 1/2-mile parade route

stretching from Central Park to Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

In addition, officers with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors will walk among the crowds, and sharpshooters on rooftops will scan building win-

dows and balconies for anything unusual.

New York officials are also asking the tens of thousands of spectators to be alert for anything suspicious.

Continued on Page 2



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## Poll: Many want to avoid political talk this Thanksgiving



Mason Nix, 6 1/2, looks over at other plates as he and other volunteers work to prepare plates for guests during Hiway 80 Rescue Mission's annual Thanksgiving meal in Tyler, Texas, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. The ministry estimates they will serve around 1,100 meals at their Tyler and Longview locations.

(Chelsea Purgahn/Tyler Telegraph/AP)

By **LAURIE KELLMAN**  
**EMILY SWANSON**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Pass the turkey — but maybe hold the politics. The already-fraught topic now includes allegations of sexual

misconduct against politicians of various political stripes.

From GOP President Donald Trump to Democratic Sen. Al Franken, politicians past, present and aspiring stand accused of sexual

misconduct and that could keep tensions high at the holiday table. More than a third of Americans dread the prospect of politics coming up over Thanksgiving, a new poll shows.

Glenn Rogers, a Republi-

can from Los Angeles, says he asks people around the table to talk about things to celebrate from the past year. Not everyone, he knows, will be toasting the Trump presidency.

"For the most part, we get to the point where we know that we're not going to agree with each other and it gets dropped," says the 67-year-old manufacturing consultant, who says he voted less for Trump than against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

With a cascade of sexual misconduct scandals now echoing similar allegations against Trump during the campaign, tempers on the subject of Trump may not have cooled, says Rogers. "When you start talking about it now, there's still some, I think, real animosity when you start talking about character."

Rogers is among more than a third of Americans who say they dread the prospect of politics coming up over Thanksgiving, compared with just 2 in 10 who say they're eager to

talk politics, according to a new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Four in 10 don't feel strongly either way.

Democrats are slightly more likely than Republicans to say they're uneasy about political discussions at the table, 39 percent to 33 percent. And women are more likely than men to say they dread the thought of talking politics, 41 percent to 31 percent.

Those who do think there's at least some possibility of politics coming up are somewhat more likely to feel optimistic about it than Americans as a whole. Among this group, 30 percent say they'd be eager to talk politics and 34 percent would dread it.

The debate over whether to talk politics at Thanksgiving is about as American as the traditional feast itself. By Christmas 2016, 39 percent of U.S. adults said their families avoided conversations about politics, according to the Pew Research Center. □

## In terror-wary NYC, security tight for Thanksgiving parade

Continued from Front

"There will be a cop on every block," said NYPD Chief of Patrol Terence Monahan. "Go to that cop and say something."

The 91st annual parade begins at 9 a.m. and will be broadcast live on NBC. Smokey Robinson, Jimmy Fallon, The Roots, Flo Rida and Wyclef Jean will be

among the stars celebrating, along with performances from the casts of Broadway's "Anastasia," "Dear Evan Hansen" and "SpongeBob SquarePants." New balloons added this year include Dr. Seuss' Grinch, Olaf from the smash movie "Frozen," and a puppy called Chase from Nickelodeon's "Paw Patrol."

Beyond the pageantry,

police say they have been working on security for the parade since the moment last year's parade ended. It's a plan that got renewed attention after a terror attack in lower Manhattan Oct. 31, when a man in a rented truck barreled onto a crowded bike path near the World Trade Center, killing eight people.

Authorities said the 29-year-

old suspect operated from a playbook put out by the Islamic State group. Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbek immigrant, was charged with federal terrorism offenses that could qualify him for the death penalty. According to a criminal complaint, he made statements about his allegiance to the Islamic State group.

The first major event since

the attack — the New York marathon, which drew tens of thousands of spectators and 50,000 runners from around the world — went off with no problems.

"We said right away New York's response is to remain strong and resilient," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "We do not back down in the face of terror threats. The city is filled with resolve." □





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## On Thanksgiving, family hurt by Harvey counts its blessings

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**

Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — The kitchen where George and Arva Dorsey prepare an 18-dish feast every Thanksgiving has been stripped of everything but its granite countertops, standing on their own with no appliances below. The house they renovated and expanded over three decades has been gutted down to its

wooden beams.

Almost three months after Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas Gulf Coast, killing more than 80 people and damaging at least 200,000 homes, the Dorseys and other families are celebrating Thanksgiving however they can.

"We try to keep our head up, and we know that God is above all," said Arva Dorsey, sitting next to her

husband in the dining room where they would have served Thanksgiving dinner. "So many of the blessings have come through this disaster. We're just grateful." George Dorsey said one possibility was the family — including some members from out of town — could spend Thursday with a friend. Or they might go to a local buffet-style restaurant for turkey and trim-



In this Nov. 17, 2017 photo, George Dorsey, center, hugs Samaritan's Purse volunteers, Nikki Moore, left, and Samantha Roundtree, who are helping rebuild his hurricane-damaged home in Houston. Dorsey usually hosts a large Thanksgiving dinner for family but is making other arrangements this year as they continue to recover from the storm damage.  
(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

# Thanksgiving

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gings.

Some people are gathering at churches that have held large meals for people displaced by the storm and volunteers spending the holiday away from their families to help rebuild. Others will go to annual events like Houston's "Super Feast," where volunteers this year will hand out clothes and supplies along with turkey and stuffing.

Furniture store owner Jim McIngvale — a Houston icon known as "Mattress Mack" — is opening one of his Gallery Furniture locations for a feast that starts at 10 a.m. Thursday.

In Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, there are plenty of signs of progress. Blocks that had piles of debris on every front lawn are being cleared. Work crews are in neighborhoods all over the city, and nonprofit groups have distributed hundreds of millions in aid.

But more than 47,000 people across Texas, including the Dorseys, are still staying in hotels with vouchers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Others are staying with family members or have

left Southeast Texas altogether, abandoning mortgages on homes that were wrecked by floodwaters. Some people are still living in apartments infested with mold. The Dorseys were rescued from their home the second night of the storm by a National Guard truck, with Guardsmen pulling them out of floodwaters that had reached several feet and still rising.

The Guard took them to a nearby Baptist church, where they slept for two nights on the floor until cots arrived. They spent a week at the church, where they celebrated their 35th anniversary with a dance as other evacuees toasted them holding paper cups filled with punch.

Dozens of volunteers from churches all over the world have since arrived in their neighborhood, many of them unprompted, to help rebuild.

George Dorsey, 59, walked through his house last week as volunteers from the group Samaritan's Purse worked inside and on the roof. The staccato sound of nail guns rang out as he talked. The air inside was dry, but dusty. □





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# Democrats face hot-potato politics of sexual predation, too

By JULIET LINDERMAN  
CALVIN WOODWARD  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Democrats have been quick to support the “me too” chorus of women — and some men — who have stepped up to allege sexual misconduct and name names. But now “me too” stains the Democrats, too, putting them in an awkward place as they calibrate how forcefully to respond.

Allegations against Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan are part of the newest chapter in the hot-potato politics of sexual predation for the party, which has its own fraught history on the subject.

The latest revelations have prompted a hard look back at the way Democrats and their allies once circled the wagons around President Bill Clinton, dismissing allegations that extended to serious assault as mere dalliances or the tales of “looney” women.

In her 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton drew a clear line on behalf of women who allege sexual assault, saying flatly: “You have the right to be believed.” But she equivocated when asked if her husband’s accusers from another decade should be believed, too: “I would say that everybody should be believed at first until they are disbelieved based on evidence.”

The pressure’s on now to act without equivocation. Franken’s prankish photo of his hands over a napping woman’s breasts on

a military plane, combined with her allegations that he kissed her forcibly on an-

It reported that his office paid more than \$27,000 to a woman who alleged she

demanding Moore quit his candidacy “if” his accusers have told the truth about

can’s “liberal” opponent in a Dec. 12 special election. In this sexual misconduct frenzy, unmasking figures in entertainment, media, sports and politics (#MeToo on Twitter), all sorts of episodes on the spectrum of misbehavior are being lumped together, from the boorish and juvenile to the allegedly criminal.

Grabbing a woman’s behind at the state fair isn’t in the same league as molesting a child.

Still, the Democrats have a predicament.

“They don’t want to look tolerant on this issue by saying, ‘He wasn’t as bad as so and so,’” said Dan Lublin, a political science professor at American University.

“They need to appear strong,” he said, and not focus on gradations in misbehavior.

“They’re going with ‘unacceptable.’

And it is a dilemma, because you don’t know how far that will go.”

Kathleen Dolan, chair of the political science department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said the party’s history with this issue is important to remember.

“Certainly, Democrats, from an ideological perspective, and on gender egalitarianism, should be the party or people we’d expect to be taking the lead on awareness of the decades-old problem of sexual harassment and sexual assault,” she said.

“That’s complicated in part by the history of the party debate when Bill Clinton was in the thick of his stuff.”



In this Nov. 6, 2017 photo, former President Bill Clinton speaks at a symposium in Georgetown University in Washington. Democrats have been quick to support the “me too” chorus of women — and some men — who have stepped up to allege sexual misconduct and name names. But now “me too” stains the Democrats, too, putting them in an awkward place as they calibrate how forcefully to respond.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

other occasion, prompted swift condemnation from throughout the party’s ranks and inspired calls for an ethics investigation that the senator-in-hiding supported, too. Then a second woman came forward, alleging Franken grabbed her buttocks during a photo op at a state fair.

And now, BuzzFeed has published affidavits from former employees of Conyers who said they saw the Democrat inappropriately touching women who worked for him and asking them for sexual favors.

was fired because she rejected his sexual advances. On Tuesday, Conyers denied he made that settlement — but his office later acknowledged it while still denying that the allegations were true. The House Ethics Committee has initiated an investigation.

Democrats, predictably, have spoken fiercely and with one voice against Roy Moore, the Republican Senate candidate in Alabama who is accused of disrobing a 14-year-old girl in his house when in his 30s. Some Republicans have

his approaching teenage girls.

Others have concluded the accusations are more credible than his denials. But a few, like Alabama’s GOP governor, have suggested that even if he did prey on a 14-year-old decades ago, the need to protect the Senate’s Republican majority trumps such concerns.

President Donald Trump repeatedly noted on Wednesday that Moore has denied the allegations and insisted that Alabama must not elect the Republi-



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## No verdict yet in San Francisco pier killing as jury breaks



Jim Steinle, center, and Liz Sullivan, right, the parents of Kate Steinle, walk to a court room for closing arguments in the trial of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate accused of killing their daughter, on Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, in San Francisco. Jose Ines Garcia Zarate had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth deportation when Kate Steinle was fatally shot in the back while walking with her father on the pier.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

**By JANIE HAR**  
**Associated Press**  
**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The criminal case against a Mexican man accused of killing a woman on a crowded San Francisco

pier is coming to a close more than two years after setting off a national firestorm over immigration. Jurors went home mid-day Wednesday without reaching a verdict and

will resume deliberations Monday after the long holiday weekend. They must decide whether Jose Ines Garcia Zarate was a hapless homeless man who killed Kate Steinle in a freak

accident or a calculated murderer playing a sick game.

Steinle was walking with her father and a family friend in July 2015 when she was shot, collapsing into her father's arms. Garcia Zarate had been released from the San Francisco jail about three months before the shooting, despite a request by federal immigration authorities to detain him for deportation.

He had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth deportation. Steinle's death put San Francisco's "sanctuary city" policy in the spotlight, as Democrats and Republicans lashed out at city officials for refusing to cooperate with federal deportation efforts.

During the presidential race, then-candidate Donald Trump cited the killing as a reason to toughen U.S. immigration policies. Trump later signed an executive order to cut funding from cities that limit cooperation with U.S. immigration authorities, a policy that

a federal judge in San Francisco permanently blocked Monday.

But the politics of immigration were not allowed to come up in the monthlong trial.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia said in her closing rebuttal Tuesday that she didn't know why Garcia Zarate fired the weapon, but he created a risk of death by bringing the firearm to the pier that day and twirling around on a chair for at least 20 minutes before he fired.

She said he then ran away while other people tried to figure out what had happened. The bullet ricocheted on the pier's concrete walkway before it struck Steinle.

"He did kill someone. He took the life of a young, vibrant, beautiful, cherished woman by the name of Kate Steinle," she said. Defense attorney Matt Gonzalez said in his closing remarks Tuesday that he knows it's difficult to believe Garcia Zarate found an object that turned out to be a weapon that fired when he picked it up.

But he told jurors that Garcia Zarate had no motivation to kill Steinle and as awful as her death was, "nothing you do is going to fix that." He urged jurors, who received the case Tuesday, to pick apart the facts of the case, instead of swallowing a ludicrous narrative by the prosecution that relied on circumstantial evidence. Garcia called the defense's argument just as implausible and told the jury to look at the entire picture. □

## California: Inmate who fled courthouse arrested, 1 at large

**STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)** — One of two California inmates who escaped from a courthouse two weeks ago has been captured after a chase but his partner got away, the California Highway Patrol said Wednesday. Officers in the central city of Stockton arrested Tramel McClough Tuesday night

but John Bivins escaped, said highway patrol Officer Katzakian. McClough and Bivins escaped deputies escorting them at a court in Palo Alto on Nov. 6 by bolting through an emergency exit and running outside to a waiting car. Highway patrol officers in Stockton tried to pull over a car but McClough kept

driving, then stopped the vehicle and ran inside a Walmart where he was detained, the highway patrol said in a statement. Bivins then took the wheel and kept driving. Officers pursued the car and one fired his gun. Bivins got away but Katzakian said he could not provide more details.

McClough and Bivins were being held without bail after they were accused of robbing a Verizon store of \$64,000 in merchandise in February. Police have said they tied up the store employees, forced one to open a safe and were arrested a short time later after a car chase. □



# Olympic gymnastics ex-doctor pleads guilty to sex charges



Dr. Larry Nassar, 54, appears in court for a plea hearing in Lansing, Mich., Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.  
(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

By DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press

**LANSING, Mich. (AP)** — A former doctor accused of molesting girls while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University pleaded guilty Wednesday to multiple charges of sexual assault and will face at least 25 years in prison.

Larry Nassar, 54, admitted to abusing seven girls, mostly under the guise of treatment at his Lansing-area home and a campus clinic. All but one of his accusers was a gymnast. He faces similar charges in a neighboring county and lawsuits filed by more than 125 women and girls. Nassar lost his license to practice medicine in April.

Olympic gymnasts Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas are among the women who have publicly said they were among Nassar's victims.

Some of his accusers attended the hearing Wednesday in a packed Ingham County courtroom. Some were crying.

"For all those involved ... I'm so horribly sorry that this was like a match that turned into a forest fire out of control," Nassar said. "I pray the rosary every day for forgiveness. I want them to heal. I want the community to heal."

Nassar admitted to digitally penetrating the victims, agreed that his conduct had no legitimate medical purpose and that he did not have the girls' consent. The plea deal in Ingham

County calls for a minimum prison sentence of 25 years, but a judge could set the minimum sentence as high as 40 years. In Michigan, inmates are eligible for parole after serving a minimum sentence. Sentencing was set for Jan. 12.

A prosecutor said 125 women and girls have filed complaints with Michigan State University police. Judge Rosemarie Aquilina told Nassar: "You used your position of trust ... in the most vile way to abuse children. ... I agree that now is a time of healing, but it may take

them a lifetime of healing while you spend your lifetime behind bars thinking about what you did in taking away their childhood." She called the accusers "superheroes for all of America, because this is an epidemic." The girls have testified that

Nassar molested them with his hands, sometimes when a parent was present in the room, while they sought help for gymnastics injuries. After the hearing, one of his accusers, Larissa Boyce, said it was "really hard" to look at Nassar in the courtroom. □

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# UK budget sees economy wilting under Brexit pressure

By **DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's Treasury chief has outlined cautious spending plans to a nation bracing for the shock of leaving the European Union, amid a stream of worsening of economic forecasts that hampered room for giveaways.

Philip Hammond revealed the deteriorating outlook in his annual budget speech to Parliament on Wednesday, with slowing growth and a stubborn deficit offering little space to increase spending in the face of demands from teachers, firefighters, police and the military. Adding to the pressure for fiscal restraint was the need to preserve state coffers for the potential turmoil of Brexit.

"We are at a turning point in our history," Hammond told the House of Commons. "And we resolve to look forwards, not backwards."

Hammond set aside 3 billion pounds (\$3.9 billion) over two years to prepare for Brexit and offered a package of initiatives to build new homes and ease the country's housing shortage, but he otherwise sidestepped eye-popping



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond waves and poses for the media as he holds up the traditional red dispatch box, outside his official residence 11 Downing Street, before delivering his annual budget speech to Parliament, in London, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

initiatives. He promised to "invest in the future," with money to improve infrastructure, spur the development of new technologies and teach advanced mathematics to more children.

"More maths for everyone," Hammond said in a cheerful effort to put the best face on things. "Don't

let anyone say I don't know how to show the nation a good time!"

Hammond, who has been nicknamed "Eeyore" because of his cautious approach, had been under pressure to appear upbeat about the economy's prospects after Brexit. Prime Minister Theresa May's weakened government

was hoping for excitement without controversy — particularly since anything too revolutionary might get voted down. The Chancellor of the Exchequer tried to paint an optimistic vision of a "global Britain" that would embrace the technological revolution and capitalize on the opportunities presented by leaving

the EU. He promised an approach that would be "balanced" amid pleas to end austerity. And though Hammond did his best to put a happy stamp on things — Britain's Press Association described him as the "chortling chancellor" — the part of his speech he himself described as "economicky" revealed the painful truth. The economy is slowing. The Office of Budget Responsibility, an independent body that provides the chancellor with forecasts, said it expects the economy to expand 1.5 percent this year, 1.4 percent in 2018, and 1.3 in both 2019 and 2020, before picking up to 1.5 percent and finally 1.6 percent in 2022. The OBR also cut its forecast for worker productivity over the next five years. By contrast, the neighboring eurozone economy was growing at a 2.5 percent annual rate at last count. Slower growth and lower productivity mean British tax revenues are likely to grow more slowly in coming years, making it harder for the government to ease the austerity that has characterized budgets since the global financial crisis swelled Britain's debt. □

# Unrepentant Mladic sentenced to life for Bosnia atrocities

By **MIKE CORDER**  
Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — An unrepentant Ratko Mladic, the bullish Bosnian Serb general whose forces rained shells and snipers' bullets on Sarajevo and carried out the worst massacre in Europe since World War II, was convicted Wednesday of genocide and other crimes and sentenced to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Defiant to the last, Mladic was ejected from a courtroom at the United Nations' Yugoslav war crimes tribunal after yelling at judges: "Everything you said is pure lies. Shame on you!"

He was dispatched to a neighboring room to watch on a TV screen as Presid-



Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic flashes a thumbs up as he enters the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, to hear the verdict in his genocide trial.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

for international justice and sends out a powerful message around the world that impunity cannot and will not be tolerated," said

tinue. Mladic's attorneys vowed to appeal his convictions on 10 charges related to a string of atrocities from the beginning of

the 1992-95 Bosnian war to its bitter end.

"The defense team considers this judgment to be erroneous, and there will be an appeal, and we believe that the appeal will correct the errors of the trial chamber," Mladic lawyer Dragan Ivetic said.

Mladic's son, Darko, said his father told him after the verdict that the tribunal was a "NATO commission ... trying to criminalize a legal endeavor of Serbian people in times of civil war to protect itself from the aggression."

Presiding Judge Alphons Orie started the hearing by reading out a litany of horrors perpetrated by forces under Mladic's control.

"Detainees were forced to rape and engage in other

degrading sexual acts with one another. Many Bosnian Muslim women who were unlawfully detained were raped," Orie said.

The judge recounted the story of a mother who ventured into the streets during the deadly siege of Sarajevo with her son as Serb snipers and artillery targeted the Bosnian capital. She was shot. The bullet passed through her abdomen and struck her 7-year-old son's head, killing him.

In Srebrenica, the war reached its bloody climax as Bosnian Serb forces overran what was supposed to be a U.N.-protected safe haven. After busing away women and children, Serb forces systematically murdered some 8,000 Muslim males. □



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## Italy's Berlusconi hopes European court allows comeback

By **NICOLE WINFIELD**  
**FRANCOIS BADIAS**

**Associated Press**

**STRASBOURG, France (AP)**

— Lawyers for Silvio Berlusconi and the Italian government sparred Wednesday in Europe's human rights court in an unusual, high-profile case that could help the 81-year-old tycoon's attempted political comeback.

Berlusconi, the three-time Italian premier, says Italy's government violated his rights by barring him from public office over a tax fraud conviction. He is appealing to the European Court of Human Rights — though he's determined to weigh in on Italy's upcoming electoral campaign regardless of what the court decides.

"I hope the court quickly takes up my appeal," Berlusconi told La Repubblica on Wednesday, when the Strasbourg, France-based court held its first hearing in



Italian former Prime Minister and leader of "Forza Italia" party, Silvio Berlusconi, gestures during the recording of Rai TV program 'Porta a porta', in Rome Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017.

(Claudio Peri/ANSA via AP)

the case.

"But my role in the next campaign is clear: Independent of my ability to run, I will be campaigning for the center-right to lead the country."

Berlusconi, who has emerged from the political shadows in the run-up to the 2018 elections, has asked Italy's president to delay holding general elections until late spring

in hopes that the court will make a decision in time to allow him to run on his Forza Italia ticket.

A court decision isn't expected for months. His lawyer Edward Fitzgerald

argued Wednesday that Italy violated Berlusconi's human rights in multiple ways, notably by means of a 2012 law preventing anyone sentenced to more than two years in prison from holding or running for public office for at least six years.

Berlusconi in 2013 was stripped of his Senate seat and barred from holding public office following a tax fraud conviction.

He challenged the ban first in Italy and then at the European court, arguing among other things that being stripped from office amounted to retroactive punishment, since the tax fraud case concerned crimes purportedly committed prior to 2012. Fitzgerald said the ban was vague, politically driven and offered Berlusconi no legal recourse. He said it was designed by Berlusconi's rivals in the Senate to target the former premier. □

## German Social Democrats under pressure in coalition impasse

By **GEIR MOULSON**

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany's center-left Social Democrats are under pressure to halt the country's drift toward a new election after ruling out a repeat of their outgoing coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel. The Social Democrats were the junior partners in Merkel's government of the past four years, a "grand coalition" of Germany's biggest parties.

But the party said after a

disastrous result in Germany's Sept. 24 election that it would go into opposition, and its leadership reiterated that stance Monday after Merkel's coalition talks with two smaller parties collapsed and insisted it isn't afraid of a new poll.

That position has drawn widespread criticism from other parties.

"In the interest of Germany's ability to act in Europe, the Social Democrats should think again very carefully about whether

they shouldn't enter a government," the country's representative on the European Commission, Guenther Oettinger, told Der Spiegel magazine on Wednesday. Oettinger is a member of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union.

The heads of two influential German business lobby groups also said the country needs a new government soon. The only two politically plausible coalitions with a parliamentary majority

are the "grand coalition" or the alliance on which talks collapsed. If no one budges, the options are a minority government — never previously tried — or a new election. The Social Democrats' leader, Martin Schulz, will meet Thursday with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who has urged politicians to compromise. Deputy leader Ralf Stegner told news agency dpa that his party isn't backing off its refusal to join a new Merkel administration, but hinted

at the possibility of giving a minority conservative government some support, at least on European and foreign policy issues.

"This is the parliament's hour," he said. "We must consider new forms of cooperation." Stegner said that "new elections would be a confession of failure." Merkel, however, has said that she is "very skeptical" about a minority government and new elections would be preferable if no coalition can be formed. □



## Syria's divided opposition to get a new face

By SARAH EL DEEB  
PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syria's notoriously fragmented opposition gathering Wednesday in the Saudi capital is trying to close ranks and come up with a unified vision as international efforts appeared headed toward a

resolution that would preserve the rule of President Bashar Assad.

The opposition remains rife with disagreements and is weakened by its allies' distraction with other conflicts. President Bashar Assad, in contrast, is the most secure in his post since the war began, boosted by significant

military victories backed by his allies Russia and Iran that have turned the tide of the conflict. Days ahead of a new round of peace talks in Geneva, and a new separate effort by Russia to bring the opposition and the government together, the opposition is meeting in Riyadh to choose new

representatives. Hours before the meeting, a dozen opposition figures, including the head of the Riyadh-formed High Negotiations Committee Riad Hijab, resigned, apparently in protest of others being too willing to accept the continued rule of a man they view as a discredited tyrant. □

## Saudi-led military pledges to ease Yemen blockade

By AHMED AL-HAJ  
KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen said Wednesday that it will reopen the war-torn country's main airport and a vital Red Sea port to humanitarian traffic, easing a blockade imposed after rebels fired a missile toward the Saudi capital earlier this month.

The easing is to begin on Thursday.

The airport in the capital of Sanaa would reopen to U.N. aircraft and the sea port of Hodeida would be able to receive urgent humanitarian aid, the coalition statement said.

The port of Salef is also expected to reopen, deputy U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said in New York, citing information U.N. humanitarian and political officials received from their Saudi counterparts.

It was not immediately clear, however, if port operations will return to pre-blockade levels.

U.N. officials cautiously welcomed the decision.

"It is good news, but we are still waiting to see the specific details," said Jamie McGoldrick, the U.N. humanitarian chief for Yemen.

Haq said the U.N. is monitoring developments and has "made clear the tremendous amount of needs on the ground."

In an interview just before the coalition's announcement, McGoldrick told The Associated Press that a continued blockade would make Yemen's long-suffering population more vulnerable to cholera and famine.

Millions in Yemen are at immediate risk if food aid and the supply of fuel for pumping clean water are interrupted, he said.

About 7 million people in Yemen — out of a population of 27 million — depend entirely on food aid, and 4 million rely on aid groups for clean water. □

## In surprise reversal: Lebanese PM Hariri puts resignation on hold

By SARAH EL DEEB  
PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri walked back his resignation on Wednesday after weeks of intensive international diplomacy aimed at restoring the delicate political balance that has kept the country from being pulled apart by regional tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Hariri's decision to stay on, provisionally at least, is an embarrassment to Riyadh, which is widely seen as having orchestrated the resignation. But the kingdom's increasingly activist leadership — led by the 32-year-old crown prince who is spearheading the kingdom's foreign policy — can take solace in having revived the conversation about the formidable influence wielded in Lebanon by the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah.

The reversal capped a dramatic two-and-a-half weeks that saw Hariri resign suddenly from Riyadh on Nov. 4, then traveled to Paris, Egypt, and Cyprus, before finally returning home on the eve of Lebanon's 74th Independence Day celebrations.

President Michel Aoun received him with a warm embrace at the military parade on Wednesday morning, and the two men sat relaxed and appearing to enjoy each other's company at the viewing stand. Aoun had earlier said he would not accept Hariri's resignation until the prime minister presented it in per-



son. Wednesday was the **Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, left, arrives to attend a military parade to mark the 74th anniversary of Lebanon's independence from France in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.**

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

first opportunity for face-to-face talks. Hariri later said he presented his resignation, but was asked by Aoun to retract it and allow time for consultations. He acquiesced and said he was looking forward to a "real partnership with all political forces to put Lebanon's higher interests before any others." The reversal highlights the latest Saudi foreign policy overreach under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, seen as being behind most of the kingdom's major decisions. When he resigned, in an uncomfortable, televised statement from Riyadh, Hariri said he was protesting what he called meddling in Arab affairs

proxy, Hezbollah. Hezbollah is a partner in the coalition government Hariri formed a year ago. The resignation sparked a political and diplomatic crisis as Lebanese officials accused the kingdom of pressuring the Saudi-aligned politician to step down. The Lebanese, affronted by the developments, rallied around Hariri, unanimously calling for his return in what became an embarrassment for the kingdom. The Saudi crown prince, who has the blessing of his father, King Salman, has taken a much harder line against the Sunni kingdom's main rival — Shiite power Iran, which has spread its influence in the Arab region in recent

years. The crown prince, who is also defense minister, has a reputation for being impulsive. He has led Saudi Arabia into a nearly three-year-long war in Yemen to try and push back Iranian-allied rebels there. A global outcry by aid groups over the tightening of a Saudi blockade in Yemen prompted the Saudis to say they would lift restrictions on urgently-needed humanitarian supplies. But Hariri's retraction is not a total loss for the Gulf kingdom, which can point to the newly invigorated debate, mainly in Lebanon, over the extent of Hezbollah's regional influence, and its formidable military capabilities that rival those of the Lebanese Army. □





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## Zimbabwe's incoming leader Mnangagwa returns home to cheers



Zimbabwe's President in waiting Emmerson Mnangagwa, greets supporters gathered outside the Zanu-PF party headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.

(AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

By FARAI MUTSAKA  
CHRIS TORCHIA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— Zimbabwe's incoming leader Emmerson Mnangagwa made a triumphant return Wednesday, telling cheering supporters that the country is witnessing "a new and unfolding democracy."

"I appeal to all genuine people of Zimbabwe to come together," Mnangagwa said. "We are all Zimbabweans ... we need peace in our country and jobs, jobs, jobs."

That was received enthusiastically by the crowd at the headquarters of the ruling ZANU-PF party, as Zimbabwe's economic crisis helped bring the downfall of Robert Mugabe, who resigned Tuesday after 37 years in power.

Mnangagwa said he had been in constant contact with military leaders during the tumultuous two weeks between his firing by Mugabe and his return to lead Zimbabwe. He will be sworn in Friday to serve Mugabe's remaining term until elections next year.

He praised the military and commander Gen.

Constantino Chiwenga, "who have been able to manage this process very peacefully."

Speaking with his wife, Auxilia, by his side, Mnangagwa was flanked by two rows of security agents, who appeared alert to any possible security threat.

After emerging from hiding in neighboring South Africa, Mnangagwa met with its President Jacob Zuma and flew to Zimbabwe in a private jet.

The 75-year-old Mnangagwa fled Zimbabwe after Mugabe fired him, leading the military to move in and kick off a series of extraordinary events ending in Mugabe stepping down amid impeachment proceedings.

The jubilant crowd in the capital, Harare, celebrated his first public remarks. Some carried signs with his image, suggesting a organization behind the festive turnout. Signs read "Our Hero, Our Hope" and "Welcome back, Our Hero."

One man hoping to see Mnangagwa, Godwin Nyarugwa, said he was "very ecstatic" and that "we need change in this country, change in every-

thing" after years of economic crisis. Nyarugwa said he had several university degrees but no job, a common theme among Zimbabwe's well-educated population.

"We have to try him and see," he said of Mnangagwa. "If he doesn't come up with something, we need to change him as well."

Zimbabweans were still reeling from Mugabe's

resignation. They cheered and danced in the streets of Harare late into Tuesday night, thrilled to be rid of a leader whose early promise after the end of white minority rule in 1980 was overtaken by economic collapse, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

Now the focus turns to Mnangagwa, Mugabe's longtime deputy who was

pushed aside as unpopular first lady Grace Mugabe positioned herself to replace him and succeed her husband.

That led the military to step in a week ago, opening the door for the ruling party and the people to publicly turn against the president.

It was not clear what the 93-year-old Robert Mugabe and his wife would do next. □

### Thanksgiving Day Buffet

November 23, 2017

#### Salads

- Waldorf salad with apples, celery & nuts
- Sliced tomatoes and cucumbers in vinaigrette
- Romaine lettuce with pears, cranberries, red onion & candy walnuts
- Couscous salad with cherry tomatoes & raspberry vinaigrette
- Mixed garden greens with assorted salad toppings & homemade dressings

#### Soup

- Cream of pumpkin & cinnamon
- Assorted rolls & butter

#### Holiday Carving Station

- Roasted turkey with gravy
- Honey glazed ham with ginger & raisin sauce
- Herb infused lamb leg with red wine jus

#### Hot Buffet

- Grilled Brussel sprouts with honey & herbs
- Mahi mahi with tomato basil beurre blanc sauce
- Skin-on mashed potato
- Apple & sausage stuffing
- Grilled beef tenderloin with rosemary red wine sauce

#### Desserts

- Peach tartlets | Pumpkin cinnamon pie | Homemade ginger cookies
- Carrot cake | Chocolate layer cake | Assorted fruits

#### Coffee | Tea

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## Hope dwindles in Argentina: Families of lost submarine crew keep faith

By A. CALATRAVA  
LUIS HENAO  
Associated Press

**MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP)** — Federico Ibanez clings to a fence crowded with blue-and-white Argentine flags, rosary beads and messages of support for his

face to replenish its oxygen supply and charge batteries.

The German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine was set to arrive Monday to a naval base in Mar del Plata, where local residents have arrived

doesn't come from one day to the next," he said. "We hope this will go right because of the improving weather and the technology that's being used." The U.S. government has sent two P-8 Poseidon aircraft to Argentina, a naval



People pray for the crew of the missing submarine outside the navy base in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. Argentine families of 44 crew members aboard a submarine that has been lost in the South Atlantic for seven days are growing increasingly distressed as experts say that the crew might be reaching a critical period of low oxygen on Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Marina Devo)

brother and 43 other crew members of a missing submarine that should have arrived to a naval base days ago. But his hopes are slowly dwindling.

Ibanez and other relatives of the sub's crew are now growing increasingly distressed as experts say that the vessel lost in the South Atlantic for seven days might be reaching a critical period of low oxygen Wednesday.

The ARA San Juan went missing Nov. 15 when it was sailing from the extreme southern port of Ushuaia to the city of Mar del Plata, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Buenos Aires. The Argentine navy and outside experts worry that oxygen for the crew would only last seven to 10 days if the sub is intact but submerged.

Authorities still do not know if the sub rose to the sur-

face to replenish its oxygen supply and charge batteries.

More than a dozen international airplanes and ships have joined the maritime search despite stormy weather that has caused powerful waves of more than 20 feet (6 meters).

The search teams are combing the waters in a wide area of some 185,000 square miles (480,000 square kilometers), which is roughly the size of Spain.

From the shore, Jorge Villareal, kept his eyes transfixed on the ocean, hoping to catch a glimpse of the vessel that carries his son, Fernando Villareal, a submarine officer.

"As a dad I want him to be rescued immediately but we can't forget about the inclemency of the weather.

And the foreign help just

research ship, a submarine rescue chamber, and sonar-equipped underwater vehicles.

U.S. Navy sailors from the San Diego-based Undersea Rescue Command are also helping with the search.

Hopes were lifted after brief satellite calls were received and when sounds were detected deep in the South Atlantic.

But experts later determined that neither was from the missing sub. A U.S. Navy aircraft later spotted flares, and a life raft was found in the search area, but authorities said that they did not come from the missing submarine either.

The false alarms have rattled nerves among distraught family members.

As the search enters a critical phase, some have begun to complain that the Argentine navy responded too late. □

## AP report details Zetas total control over Mexican prison

By MARIA VERZA  
Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Officially it was a Mexican prison, but inside it hid another reality: a center of operations where the Zetas drug cartel modified vehicles, manufactured uniforms, locked up kidnapped victims and cremated bodies using diesel fuel.

Some details of the case were previously known.

But a report released Tuesday by two university professors who specialize in human rights sheds new light on how one of Mexico's bloodiest criminal organizations took complete control of the state prison in 2010 and 2011 in Piedras Negras, just across the border from Texas, without any resistance from Coahuila state officials.

The report is based on witness statements, official documents and public data and takes a closer look at the use of the Piedras Negras prison as "key to the business and terror framework" of the Zetas. The investigation, which was conducted by Sergio Aguayo of the College of Mexico and Jacobo Dayan at Iberoamericana University, includes more than 1,500 pages and describes surreal life inside the prison's walls.

For some Zeta leaders, the prison served as a hideout and a place to host parties where cows would be slaughtered to feed attendees.

According to the report, the prison's Zeta boss, a former municipal policeman who was not identified in the report, regularly left the prison escorted by guards to have coffee, shoot at people "just for fun" and have sex with the wives of other prisoners. He had 34 close associates inside the prison and another 58 inmates making uniforms and modifying vehicles, the report said. But at its most gruesome, the prison also

served as a chilling "extermination" site.

According to witnesses, some victims arrived alive and were killed on site with a shot or hammer blow to the head.

Others were dismembered and burned immediately below a guard tower, which was controlled by the Zetas through threats and punishments.

The most sensitive job — and also the best paid at \$300 a night — was disposing of the bodies in fuel.

"When they cooked up people they would get smaller and they would hit them with a metal bar until there was nothing left ... (later) they would tip over the barrel to dump what was left on the ground ... and the truth is there was very little," the unidentified Zeta boss is quoted as saying in December 2014. Overall, testimony from recent trials of Zeta members in Texas suggests about 150 bodies were disposed of inside the prison. Remains were dumped at nearby locations, including a river and a soccer field.

Others believe there were more victims.

"Truth and justice are still missing," Dayan said Tuesday. "Who knew what, when and what did they do?" said Aguayo.

The report estimates the prison generated about \$75,000 annually, with good standing bought through drug sales and extortion proceeds.

The threat of violence was always present.

A number of prisoners working for the Zetas walked around the prison with guns, in contrast to the guards who were mostly unarmed.

A representative of the Coahuila state government, Federico Garza, said at the report's presentation that "we emphatically deny that there were crimes against humanity." He added that the investigation into crimes at the prison continues. □



# LOCAL



## Dive into Art this Weekend!

**NICOLAS** - Inspiration, motivation, colors, culture and mingling with the locals. It sounds like the perfect vacation day outside the bubble of what you know already. Something else, something different and something dazzling. You may not miss it: **Aruba Art Fair is on this weekend!**

The kick-off took place yesterday evening with an amazing program whereas Fashion connects with Art. The Fashion Meets Art show was the stage for a show with three local designers and two international designers. Local Art Centre Cosecha showcased a variety of accessories and for sure this was a boost to both fashion lovers as well as creative minds.

What to expect this weekend? Well, the muralists are working hard on their impressive mural paintings as the town of San Nicolas is painted in multicolor creating talking walls and lively streets. It is inspiring to take a walk in the streets and admire the walled art while enjoying the towns charm also.

Joasy-Ann van der Biest is one of the organizers of Aruba Art Fair and she explains that there are more than 120 artists and artisans participating in this creative event. "Only 20 of them are international, and

they participate on their own initiative and costs just because they do not want to miss it." Come and enjoy this art weekend and experience the more than 100 artists & artisans, 15 muralists, over 60 performance artists, live paintings, cars, tattoo's and many more!

Aruba Art Fair's Facebook page explains the vision of this initiative: 'to make Aruba culturally and economically richer; a vibrant, diverse, inclusive paradise where affluent people want to visit in order to look for culture, heritage and fine arts. They recognize the positive effect and the creative activity that it has on Affluent Tourism. Culture makes places distinctive, engendering pride in the local community. It also makes a practical contribution in terms of sustainability, encouraging learning and inspiring people to adopt creative and active lifestyles. Through culture communities we are able to engage young people in constructive activity and attract people and businesses essential for a prosperous local economy.'

Well said Aruba Art Fair, if this made you curious, hop into your car and hit into the direction of San Nicolas. Friday through Sunday from 6 to 11 pm, enjoy! □





# Enjoy Black Friday at Paseo Herencia Mall!

**PALM BEACH - This year Paseo Herencia stores and restaurant will be participating in Black Friday once again.**

Pass by and enjoy huge savings! Maggy's known as Aruba's Beauty Emporium will have a special Black Friday weekend for all Maggy Miles members. Kok Optica known for having the latest fashion trends in eyewear will have up to 50% OFF selected sunglasses. If you are looking for something cute, Pandora will have 20% OFF on all gift sets and buy 2 get the 3rd FREE on all charms. If you are looking for swimwear, Sunset Shack will have dollar to florin in the entire store, La Langosta up to 70% OFF and Perla Negra 20% OFF store wide. For the ladies who love fashion Baci da Roma know for exclusive pieces from Italy will have 50% OFF store wide and Carmen Steffens that has an amazing Brazilian line will have 50%-60% OFF on selected items. Converse will have 50% in the entire store. Little Switzerland will be celebrating Black Friday in their new Breitling store and will pamper all guests visiting the store. Havaianas will have buy 1 get one free on all slippers. Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein will have a surprise for Black Friday, but you have to be present to know what it is! Murano Bijoux known for its precious pieces all the way from Italy will have 20%-30% OFF Selected items. Espacio Azul will have one time Black Friday deals!

Restaurants will also be participating with specials for this day. Wet Bar will have a special sushi combo that consist of 1 Dragon Roll, 3 Gyozas and a glass of wine and will have free champagne. Juanchi's Burger known for their Crispy Onion burger will have 50% OFF the entire day on all food purchases. Pizza & Maccaroni Italian Restaurant will open at 11am to serve all the pizza lovers early this day and they will have a special on Balashi beer. The Minimarket will have a special 10% discount on all wines. Che bar will have free shots for all visitors. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to save and join us this Black Friday! Stores will open early in the morning and will stay till midnight! ☐



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## Thanksgiving Tradition

**ORANJESTAD** - While Thanksgiving is one of the biggest events in the American calendar, for Europeans it's always been a little bit of a mystery. What is it actually about? The most exposure many of us get to the holiday is by watching American television series' Thanksgiving-themed episodes - and even those tend to leave us in the dark.

This year Thanksgiving falls the day before Black Friday, November 23rd. Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (because there are sometimes five Thursdays in the month). Many Americans think it of it as just as important

as Christmas. In fact, more people in the US celebrate Thanksgiving than they do Christmas.

Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday in a country that officially separates church and state so this probably makes sense.

Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 where refugees from England, known as Pilgrims, invited the local Native Americans to a harvest feast after they experienced a successful season of produce growth. But it wasn't just the economic drive that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper.

It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about.

The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God - even our sorrows.

Their Thanksgiving tradition was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace.



Although the turkey is 'the face' of Thanksgiving nowadays, the first Thanksgiving did not even include turkey, but rather a three-day feast of goose, lobster, cod and deer. Besides turkey people love stuffing and pies - pumpkin, pecan, apple and sweet potato as the traditional desserts. Why is American football

relevant to Thanksgiving? In 1934, the University of Detroit hosted the first Thanksgiving Day football game between Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears. The game became the first-ever network broadcast event in the US and was so popular that a Thanksgiving Day football game continues today - and De-

troit has played every year since.

Today people from Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia continue the Thanksgiving tradition in their homes - or when on vacation in their holiday destination.

Aruba Today wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving. ☐



## A Thanksgiving Tradition: Three Families Converge on Aruba for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



**PALM BEACH** - Ten years ago on the beaches of Aruba three families were blessed to have met each other. The Giannopoulos', Babi-gian's, and Vincenti's have enjoyed every year at the Marriott together since. These three families have become one and have watched their children grow and even marry.

As in past years they have once again graced the beach with a sand sculpture for all to enjoy.

From a turkey, to a snowman, to a shark, and now the latest addition of a life size iguana. Thank you Aruba for ten years of awesome memories!

The boys also went on a deep sea fishing trip to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The families enjoyed fresh tuna and barracuda for lunch on the beach! □



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# SPORTS



In this Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014 file photo, Alexander Tretyakov of Russia crosses the finish area to win the gold medal during the men's skeleton competition at the 2014 Winter Olympics, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.  
Associated Press

## 'Justice': U.S. sliders relieved by IOC stand against Russians

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Sports Writer

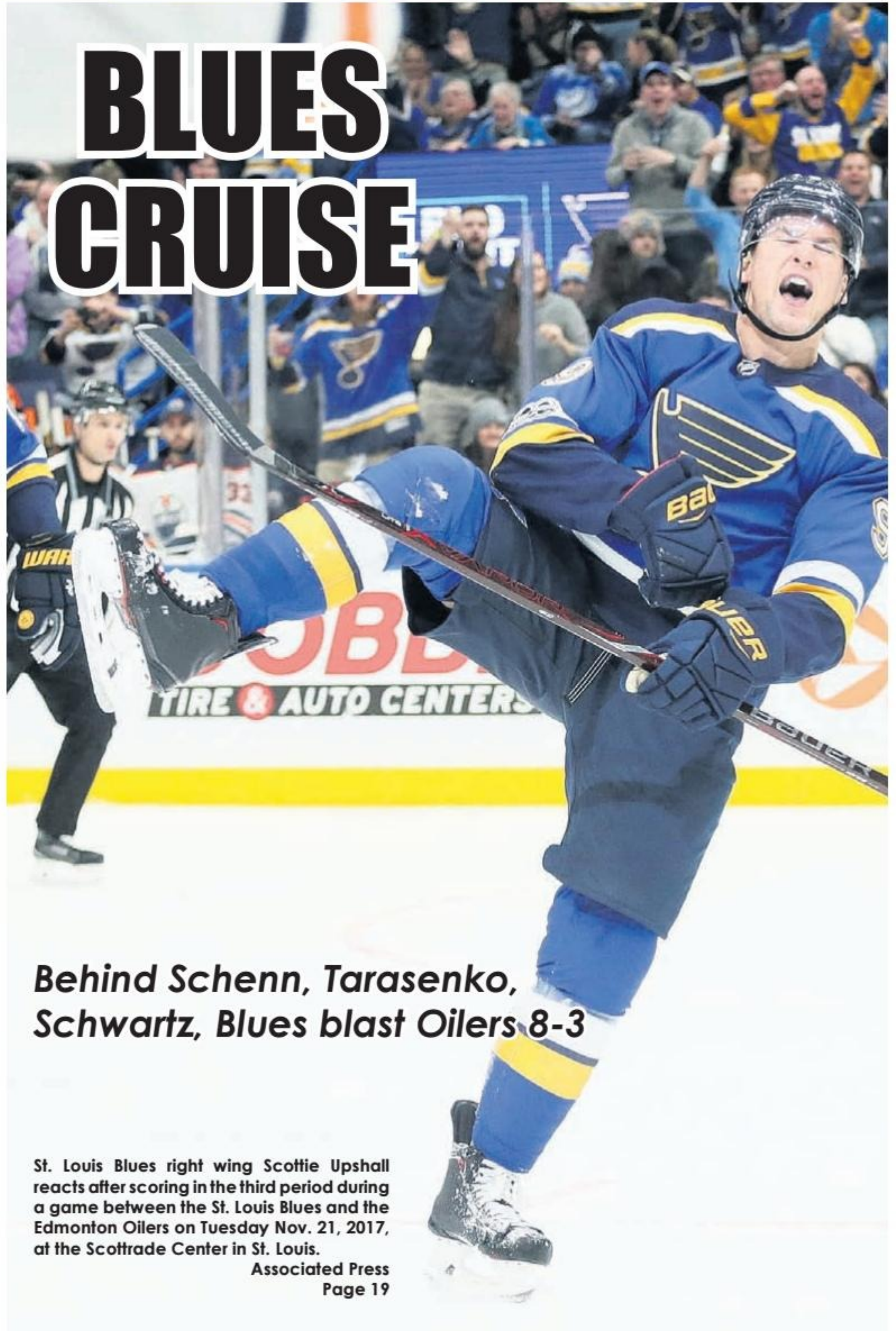
Katie Uhlaender has shed plenty of tears over the years about how she was so close to an Olympic medal, so close to standing on that podium and watching the American flag get raised in her honor. She cried again Wednesday. Those tears were happy ones.

The long-awaited word has come down: Uhlaender is about to be an Olympic bronze medalist. The International Olympic Committee disqualified four Russian skeleton athletes from the 2014 Sochi Games, including men's gold medalist Aleksandr Tretiakov and women's bronze medalist Elena Nikitina, for doping violations and further banned them from the games going forward.

"I understand that it was a difference of culture and that the Russians don't believe they did anything wrong," Uhlaender said. "But this was the only way to fix it."

Continued on Next Page

# BLUES CRUISE



## Behind Schenn, Tarasenko, Schwartz, Blues blast Oilers 8-3

St. Louis Blues right wing Scottie Upshall reacts after scoring in the third period during a game between the St. Louis Blues and the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday Nov. 21, 2017, at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

Associated Press  
Page 19



## U.S. sliders

Continued from Page 17

Tretiakov's disqualification means Latvia's Martins Dukurs will be promoted to gold, Matt Antoine of the U.S. to silver and Latvia's Tomass Dukurs, Martins' brother, to bronze. In the women's race, Uhlaender moves up one spot from fourth, placing her alongside gold medalist Lizzy Yarnold of Britain and silver medalist Noelle Pikus-Pace of the U.S.

"Changing medals, it's good, it's great, but it's not life-changing for me to go from bronze to silver," Antoine said. "For me, the biggest thing right now is justice. It feels like finally the people who didn't play fairly, didn't compete fairly, are getting what they deserved."

The Russian doping saga has dragged on for years, and still isn't over. There are other medalists, including double gold winner

Alexander Zubkov — now the president of the Russian Bobsleigh Federation — who remain under investigation related to the state-sponsored doping scandal that could keep Russia out of this winter's Pyeongchang Games entirely.

No one is sure what exactly happens next. The IOC asked the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation to modify the Olympic results, which is a formality. Antoine likely will have to surrender his bronze medal since it'll apparently be going to Tomass Dukurs, though he's gotten no instructions regarding when or how to do that.

Uhlaender also hasn't been told when she will get her medal. The IBSF said more information can be expected "within days."

"The IOC taking a stand like this and doing the right thing has restored my faith in the system and the



In this Friday, Feb. 14, 2014 file photo, Elena Nikitina of Russia celebrates her bronze medal win during the women's skeleton competition at the 2014 Winter Olympics, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

sport," Uhlaender said. "I'm just even more motivated and honored to be a part of this movement and I want to be on that podium in Korea and prove it was not a fluke. I'm just overwhelmed right now. But this has definitely added fuel to my fire."

The sliders got the news while in Whistler, British Columbia, where the World

Cup tour is this weekend. Antoine said he woke up to about 40 text messages and 10 emails; Uhlaender was getting calls, texts and emails from around the world starting at 5 a.m. and couldn't figure out why. Tretiakov and Nikitina were both in Whistler as well, and Russian officials said appeals will be filed.

In an interview with The

Associated Press earlier this season, Yarnold said she believes any athlete caught doping should be given "the harshest sanctions possible."

"The saddest thing is to know that athletes potentially missed their moments of being on the podium, receiving the medals that they deserved," Yarnold said. "That has really upset me."

Nikitina is the World Cup women's points standings leader after the first two races of the season; she finished fourth in Lake Placid, New York, and won gold last weekend in Park City, Utah. Her start times — in skeleton, sliders sprint the first few meters while towing their sled and then jump aboard — have been the source of skepticism for years, given how much faster she is than even other elite competitors.

Tretiakov is fourth in the men's World Cup standings, after a bronze in Lake Placid and a sixth-place finish in Park City. □

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Edmonton Oilers' Matt Benning, left, and St. Louis Blues' Vladimir Tarasenko, of Russia, fight during the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

## Tarasenko nets 2, gets in rare fight as Blues top Oilers 8-3

**By The Associated Press**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Vladimir Tarasenko had two goals and two assists and got in a rare fight Tuesday night, helping the St. Louis Blues to an 8-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers.

Brayden Schenn also had two goals and two assists, and Jake Allen stopped 26 shots for the NHL-leading Blues (16-5-1).

Tarasenko's fight came in the second period. In just the third scrap of his six-year career, Tarasenko tangled with Matt Benning and landed a solid right hand much to the crowd's delight.

Tarasenko was reacting to Benning's near-collision with Schenn that was almost a knee-on-knee hit.

It was Tarasenko's second career Gordie Howe hat trick — a goal, an assist and a fight in the same game. The other one came three

years ago against Nashville.

Dmitrij Jaskin, Scottie Upshall and Paul Stastny also scored for St. Louis. Jaden Schwartz had three points, including his 100th career goal.

Milan Lucic, Leon Draisaitl and Darnell Nurse scored for the Oilers. Cam Talbot was pulled in favor of Lauren Brosoit after facing just three shots. Brosoit allowed six goals on 37 shots. Veteran defenseman Jay Bouwmeester, a two-time All-Star, played his first game of the season for the Blues after breaking his ankle during training camp in September.

Edmonton is 1-5 in its last six games.

**CANUCKS 5, FLYERS 2**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Brock Boeser scored twice and Daniel Sedin inched closer to a major NHL milestone, leading Vancouver past

slumping Philadelphia.

Sedin had a goal and an assist to leave him four points shy of 1,000 for his career. Sven Baertschi scored a power-play goal, Henrik Sedin had two assists and Loui Eriksson added an empty-net goal and an assist for the Canucks.

Jacob Markstrom made 35 saves to earn his sixth win of the season as Vancouver improved to 10-8-3 with its second victory in six games. Ivan Provorov and Jakub Voracek scored for the Flyers, who lost their fifth straight and fell below .500 (8-9-4) for the first time this season.

Michal Neuvirth took the loss, allowing four goals on 22 shots. He was replaced by Brian Elliott with 5:20 remaining in the second period.

**STARS 3, CANADIENS 1**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Devin Shore and Jason Spezza scored

59 seconds apart late in the second period to lift Dallas over Montreal. Shore had no goals in the first 19 games this season, but scored for the second straight game to tie it 1-all

at 18:22 of the second.

Spezza, who also has scored in consecutive games after netting only one goal in the first 19, put in a rebound just less than a minute later. □

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Los Angeles Lakers center Brook Lopez, left, shoots over Chicago Bulls center Robin Lopez during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 103-94.

Associated Press

By **GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles Lakers' first half resembled many miserable stretches of the past four seasons. Although the Chicago Bulls have plenty of their own problems,

they outworked, outshot and outsmarted the Lakers while taking a 14-point lead.

Coach Luke Walton reminded his young team that 14 points aren't much in the NBA, and the Lakers proceeded to stage a rally

## Lakers rally from 19-point deficit to beat Bulls 103-94

that suggested the future might not be so miserable after all.

Kyle Kuzma had 22 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 11 of his 21 in the fourth quarter and the Lakers roared back from a 19-point deficit in the second half for a 103-94 victory over the Bulls on Tuesday night.

Brandon Ingram had 17 points, five rebounds and five assists as the Lakers won consecutive games for the second time this season, doing so in a thrilling fashion that had their still-faithful fans standing, cheering and recalling the 16-time champion franchise's better years.

"Anytime you go out there and compete, and you look to your right and your left and everybody is competing as hard as you are, that's a great feeling," said rookie Lonzo Ball, who had eight points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

Los Angeles is off to an 8-10

start and sitting in eighth place in the Western Conference — small achievements, but important steps for a young team just starting to believe it can compete.

The Lakers weren't competitive in the first half while committing 13 turnovers, and they trailed 61-42 early in the second half. But they put together a 38-19 run spurred by an energetic third quarter from reserves Jordan Clarkson, Josh Hart and Julius Randle, who finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Caldwell-Pope's layup with 3:08 to play gave the Lakers their first lead since the first quarter, and the veteran added back-to-back 3-pointers.

The Lakers finished strong for their first win over the Bulls at Staples Center in three tries.

"I was shocked we were only down 14 at the half, to be honest," Walton said. "It was a learning opportunity

for the guys to be down 20 and realize you don't need hero shots.

You just need to tighten down on what we are doing, and you can get back in the game."

Denzel Valentine scored 17 points and Antonio Blakeney added 15 — all in the first half — for the Bulls, who dropped to 3-12 with their seventh loss in eight games.

"They grabbed the momentum and ran with it," said Kris Dunn, who had 12 points and six assists in his second start of the season for Chicago.

"Caldwell-Pope, he hit some big shots. They were more aggressive than we were and started getting to the free throw line."

TIP-INS

**Bulls:** Fred Hoiberg promoted Dunn to the starting lineup in place of Jerian Grant, and the coach expects it to be a long-term move. Dunn has been a steady force off Chicago's bench, and Hoiberg expects Grant to take a similar role with the reserves going forward. ... David Nwaba missed the game with a sprained ankle. The LA native became a steady bench contributor for the Lakers last season, but Chicago snatched him off waivers in July while the Lakers shuffled their roster.

**Lakers:** Los Angeles visits Chicago on Jan. 26. ... F Larry Nance Jr. could be back with the team as early as next week. He had surgery on his broken left hand only three weeks ago, but has healed quicker than expected.

TWINS

Brook Lopez had four points on 2-for-10 shooting and nine rebounds for the Lakers against his twin brother, Robin, who had 14 points and three rebounds for the Bulls.

The twins grew up in North Hollywood rooting for the Lakers, who acquired Brook Lopez in a trade with Brooklyn last summer. □



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# Bills reverse course in having Taylor start against Chiefs

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)

— Rather than risk another meltdown with the Bills still in the midst of the playoff race, coach Sean McDermott had little choice but to reverse course at quarterback.

Tyrod Taylor will start on Sunday when Buffalo (5-5) travels to play the Kansas City Chiefs (6-4).

And Nathan Peterman has been sent back to the sideline after the rookie threw five interceptions in the first half of a 54-24 loss at the Los Angeles Chargers last weekend.

"It's the right thing for our team," McDermott said, in switching quarterbacks for the second consecutive Wednesday.

The first-year coach, however, was in no mood to revisit the reasoning behind starting Peterman in a move that ultimately backfired.

"Really, when you focus on that, when you look in the rearview mirror too long in this league, you lose sight of what's in front," McDermott said. "We've got to focus on the Chiefs, and that's for myself as well as our team."

In making his first career start, the fifth-round pick out of Pittsburgh became the first quarterback to throw five interceptions in the first half since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970. Peterman finished 6 of 14 for 66 yards and was replaced by Taylor to start the third quarter with Buffalo trailing

40-7.

Whatever confidence McDermott lost in Taylor a week earlier will have to quickly be restored to spark an offense that's sputtered no matter who's played quarterback during a three-game skid.

"Just do his job," he said. "I expect him to prepare like

he called "a calculated risk" in benching Taylor at a time the Bills held the AFC's sixth and final playoff spot. The team is also in the midst of a 17-season playoff drought, the longest active streak in North America's four major professional sports.

Taylor summed up the past

on fixing the troubles on offense.

When asked a follow-up question about McDermott, Taylor said: "The relationship is still there."

He then added: "Ultimately, we're here to win games. That's really what cures a lot of things. We're both working hard to do

ball. This season, he's had 11 touchdowns passing and scored another three rushing, versus three interceptions and two lost fumbles.

Running back LeSean McCoy welcomed the switch back to Taylor, saying the offense has more "trust" in the seventh-year player.



Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa, bottom, forces a turn over by Buffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

he's always prepared and come out and lead this football team."

McDermott faced heavy criticism for making what

week as "an interesting set of days," while saying he's not lost any confidence in himself.

"You've got to be prepared for anything, and focus-wise, you can't let things break your focus," he said. "Whether it was last week or this week, I'm going to continue to prepare to do whatever it takes to get this team a win on Sunday."

And yet there could potentially be a chill in his views toward McDermott.

When asked about the status of his relationship with the coach and offensive coordinator Rick Dennison, Taylor only mentioned Dennison by saying: "Me and Rico are still good friends." He added the two continue to talk and are working

whatever it takes to find a win." Taylor's demotion came on the heels of two duds.

In a 34-21 loss at the New York Jets on Nov. 2, Buffalo was trailing 34-7 before Taylor oversaw touchdown drives on the Bills final two possessions. He followed that up by going 9 of 18 for 56 yards and an interception through 55 minutes of a 47-10 loss to the New Orleans Saints.

Buffalo's defense hasn't been much better in having allowed 135 points and a whopping 638 yards rushing the past three games. Whatever Taylor's inconsistencies have been in going 20-18 over 2½ seasons in Buffalo, he's at least been efficient in protecting the

"I've just seen Tyrod in bad games he's played or bad situations where he's answered, and you could count on him," McCoy said. "Turning the ball over last game was bad for us. You can't win like that."

Taylor's demotion re-emphasized questions about the quarterback's future beyond this season. The Bills were already negotiating to sign Brian Hoyer in free agency in March before resigning Taylor — and only after he restructured his contract from a five-year to a two-year deal.

"I haven't really thought about that to be really honest," Taylor said, referring to his future. "All I can control is what I do week to week." □

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# Morgan urges voters to keep steroid users out of Hall

By JAY COHEN

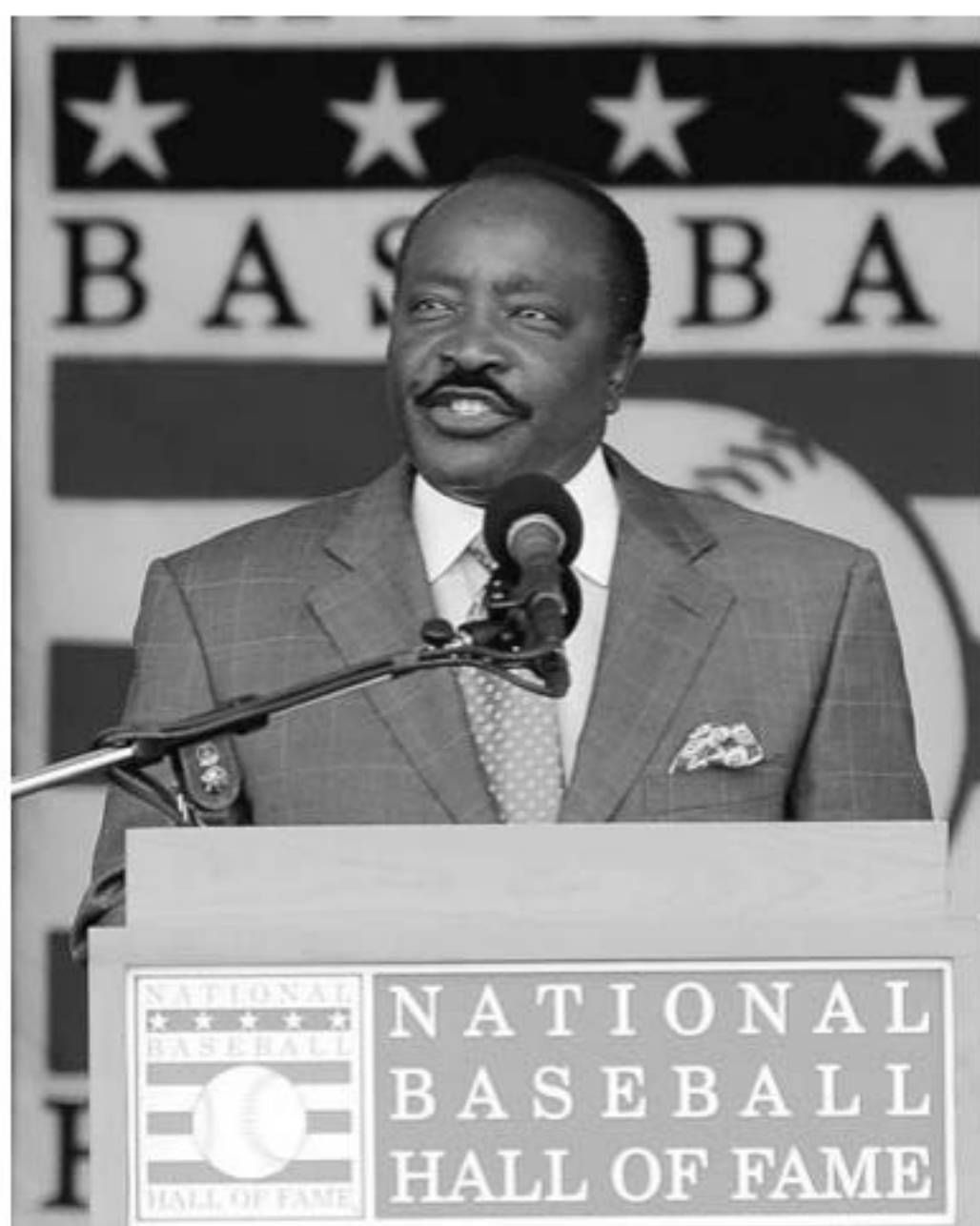
AP Sports Writer

Hall of Fame second baseman Joe Morgan is urging voters to keep "known steroid users" out of Cooperstown.

A day after the Hall revealed its 33-man ballot for the 2018 class, the 74-year-old Morgan argued against the inclusion of players implicated during baseball's steroid era in a letter to voters with the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The letter from the vice chairman of the Hall's board of directors was sent Tuesday using a Hall email address.

"Steroid users don't belong here," Morgan wrote. "What they did shouldn't be accepted. Times shouldn't change for the worse."

Hall voters have been wrestling with the issue of performance-enhancing drugs for several years. Baseball held a survey drug test in 2003 and the sport began testing for banned steroids the following year with penalties. Accusations connected to some of the candidates for the Hall vary



In this July 28, 2013, file photo, Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan speaks during ceremonies in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Associated Press

in strength from allegations with no evidence to positive tests that caused suspensions.

About 430 ballots are being sent to voters, who must have been members of the

BBWAA for 10 consecutive years, and a player needs at least 75 percent for election. Ballots are due by Dec. 31 and results will be announced Jan. 24.

Writers who had not been

covering the game for more than a decade were eliminated from the rolls in 2015, creating a younger electorate that has shown more willingness to vote for players tainted by accusations of steroid use. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens each received a majority of votes for the first time in 2017 in their fifth year on the ballot.

Morgan said he isn't speaking for every Hall of Famer, but many of them feel the same way that he does.

"Players who failed drug tests, admitted using steroids, or were identified as users in Major League Baseball's investigation into steroid abuse, known as the Mitchell Report, should not get in," Morgan wrote. "Those are the three criteria that many of the players and I think are right."

Jon Shestakofsky, a spokesman for the Hall of Fame, called Morgan's letter "a Hall of Famer initiative."

"Our role at the Hall of Fame was to support our players who feel strongly enough about this issue that they decided to speak out," Shestakofsky said in

an email. "They took the lead and asked us to provide administrative support to help get their message out." Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum and Ivan Rodriguez were inducted into the Hall in July. They were joined by former Commissioner Bud Selig and retired Kansas City and Atlanta executive John Schuerholz, who were voted in by a veterans committee.

Some baseball writers said the election of Selig, who presided over the steroids era, influenced their view of whether tainted stars should gain entry to the Hall.

Morgan praised BBWAA voters and acknowledged they are facing a "tricky issue," but he also warned some Hall of Famers might not make the trip to Cooperstown if steroid users are elected.

"The cheating that tainted an era now risks tainting the Hall of Fame too," he wrote.

"The Hall of Fame means too much to us to ever see that happen. If steroid users get in, it will divide and diminish the Hall, something we couldn't bear." □



In this Sept. 10, 2017, file photo, New York Yankees' Aaron Judge hits a two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in New York.

Associated Press

## Yankees OF Judge has shoulder surgery, should be OK by camp

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After insisting during a summer slump that he was not ailing, Yankees slugger Aaron Judge had arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder.

The operation was performed Monday by Dr. Neal ElAttrache in Los Angeles.

The Yankees said Tuesday the procedure involved a loose-body removal and cartilage cleanup and Judge should be recovered ahead of spring training.

The 25-year-old Judge hit .284 with 52 homers and 114 RBIs in 155 games this season, helping the Yankees advance to the AL Championship Series, where they lost to the eventual World Series

champion Astros.

He was a unanimous selection for AL Rookie of the Year and finished second to Houston infielder Jose Altuve in the AL MVP race.

Judge was hitting .329 with 30 homers and 66 RBIs at the All-Star break, then batted .179 with seven homers and 16 RBIs in his next 44 games through the end of August.

He made several crashes into outfield walls and often was seen with packs of ice on his shoulder.

While it looked as if an injury might be preventing him from swinging freely, but the right fielder and manager Joe Girardi repeatedly said his shoulder was fine.

He rebounded to bat .311 with 15 homers and 32 RBIs in the final month of the season. □

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## Grand Slams planning to cut seeds from 32 back to 16 in 2019

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

Grand Slam tournaments are planning to return to seeding only 16 players, instead of 32, as of 2019, and now will give a player who is a late withdrawal because of an injury 50 percent of the first-round prize money. Also among the announcements by the Grand Slam Board on Tuesday after two days of meetings in London last week:

— A player who retires from a first-round match or "performs below professional standards" could face a fine as high as the entire prize money due a loser in that round.

— A 25-second serve clock will be tried out at the Australian Open in January, but like at this year's U.S. Open, not during main-draw matches.

— Players could be fined up to \$20,000 for violat-

ing "strictly enforced" pre-match timing, which will give them one minute to meet at the net after walking on the court, five minutes for warming up, followed by one minute to be ready for play to begin.

The four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open — doubled the number of seeded players to 32 in June 2001. That decision was made partly in response to complaints from clay-court specialists that they wanted more draw protection at Wimbledon, the only major tournament played on grass.

Going back to 16 seeds in 2019 would, in theory anyway, make early upsets more likely. That's because if all of the highest-ranked players enter the field, whoever is No. 1 could wind up facing whoever is No. 17 in

the opening round.

With 32 seeds, none was forced to play someone ranked higher than No. 33 before the third round.

The changes with regard to first-round withdrawals, retirements and lack of full effort appear to be in response to what happened at Wimbledon this year. Novak Djokovic's first-round match at Centre Court lasted all of 40 minutes, and Roger Federer's went 43, before their opponents stopped playing because of pre-existing injuries.

Two other men also stopped mid-match that day, bringing the first-round retirement total to seven and sparking discussion about whether spectators were being shortchanged. The rule changes issued Tuesday, and taking effect next year, let players collect half of the first-round prize money at a Grand



Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria lifts the trophy after defeating David Goffin of Belgium in their ATP World Tour Finals singles final tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 19, 2017.

Associated Press

Slam tournament if they are "unfit to play" and withdraw onsite after noon on Thursday but before the main draw begins. The person replacing them in the field — a "lucky loser" who failed to advance out of the qualifying rounds — will get the other half of that money, plus whatever they might accumulate by winning matches.

The reasoning: Injured or ill players won't start a match

simply to collect their prize money before quitting.

The 25-second serve clock gives players 5 more seconds than ATP rules currently allow on the men's tour. But Grand Slam Board Director Bill Babcock said the clock will be used at the 2018 Australian Open on a trial basis the way it was at the U.S. Open, which tested it only for events such as qualifying and junior matches. □

## Indian police probe Maria Sharapova housing fraud case



In this Monday, March 7, 2016, file photo, tennis star Maria Sharapova speakings during a news conference in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By **MUNEEZA NAQVI**  
Associated Press

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Maria Sharapova is being inves-

tigated by police in India in a cheating and criminal conspiracy case involving a real estate company

who used the tennis star to endorse a luxury housing project that never took off. Real estate firm Homestead Infrastructure is accused of taking tens of millions of rupees (millions of dollars) from home buyers for a project named "Ballet by Maria Sharapova," a luxury apartment complex with its own helipad, tennis academy and other amenities. The five-time Grand Slam champion travelled to India in 2013 to launch the project at a glitzy ceremony.

Police began the investigation on Nov. 16.

Piyush Singh, a lawyer representing one of the home buyers, said Wednesday that Sharapova's celebrity

was the reason most people put their money into the project.

Singh said his client, Bhawana Agarwal, paid Homestead Infrastructure 5.3 million rupees (\$81,678) in 2013 because she was impressed by Sharapova's association with the project located in Gurgaon, a suburb of the Indian capital. The cost of an apartment in the swanky project was 20 million rupees (\$308,000).

Agarwal then spent the next three years chasing the builders for updates on the property and her investment in it but they stopped taking her calls, Singh said. On Wednesday, several calls to the numbers of the building company's web-

site went unanswered.

"The project never saw the light of day," Singh said.

Singh said the police investigation based on his client's complaint was testing relatively new legal ground — that celebrities endorsing projects that draw vast sums of money from investors had a responsibility "to do some due diligence" on the project before lending their name and credibility to it.

Sharapova isn't the only international sports celebrity that the real estate firm roped in.

Its website also advertises a project with Formula One great Michael Schumacher called the Michael Schumacher World Tower. □



# Uber reveals cover-up of hack affecting 57M riders, drivers

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

AP Technology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

Uber is coming clean about its cover-up of a year-old hacking attack that stole personal information about more than 57 million of the beleaguered ride-hailing service's customers and drivers.

So far, there's no evidence that the data taken has been misused, according to a Tuesday blog post by Uber's recently hired CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi. Part of the reason nothing malicious has happened is because Uber acknowledges paying the hackers \$100,000 to destroy the stolen information.

The revelation marks the latest stain on Uber's reputation. It also brought an investigation from New York's attorney general and threats of larger-than-normal fines from British authorities for failing to promptly disclose the hack.

The San Francisco company ousted Travis Kalanick as CEO in June after an internal investigation concluded he had built a culture that allowed female work-



In this March 15, 2017, file photo, a sign marks a pick-up point for the Uber car service at LaGuardia Airport in New York.

Uber's handling of its data theft in his blog post.

"While I can't erase the past, I can commit on behalf of every Uber employee that we will learn from our mistakes," Khosrowshahi wrote. "We are changing the way we do business, putting integrity at the core of every decision we make

nabbed the driver's license numbers of 600,000 Uber drivers in the U.S.

Uber waited until Tuesday to begin notifying the drivers with compromised driver's licenses, which can be particularly useful for perpetrating identity theft. For that reason, Uber will now pay for free credit-report

respond to a request for comment sent through his LinkedIn profile. Efforts to reach Sullivan were unsuccessful.

On Wednesday, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office confirmed that it had opened an investigation into the data theft, but a spokes-

woman wouldn't comment further. New York law requires that companies notify the attorney general and consumers if data is stolen. In London, Britain's Deputy Information Commissioner James Dipple-Johnstone said Wednesday the company faces "higher fines" because it concealed the hack from the public.

The Information Commissioner's Office and the National Cyber Security Center are working to gauge the severity of the problem for British Uber users.

Uber's silence about its breach came while it was negotiating with the Federal Trade Commission about its handling of its riders' information.

Earlier in 2016, the company reached a settlement with the New York attorney general requiring it to take steps to be more vigilant about protecting the information that its app stores about its riders. As part of that settlement, Uber also paid a \$20,000 fine for waiting to notify five months about another data breach that it discovered in September 2014. □

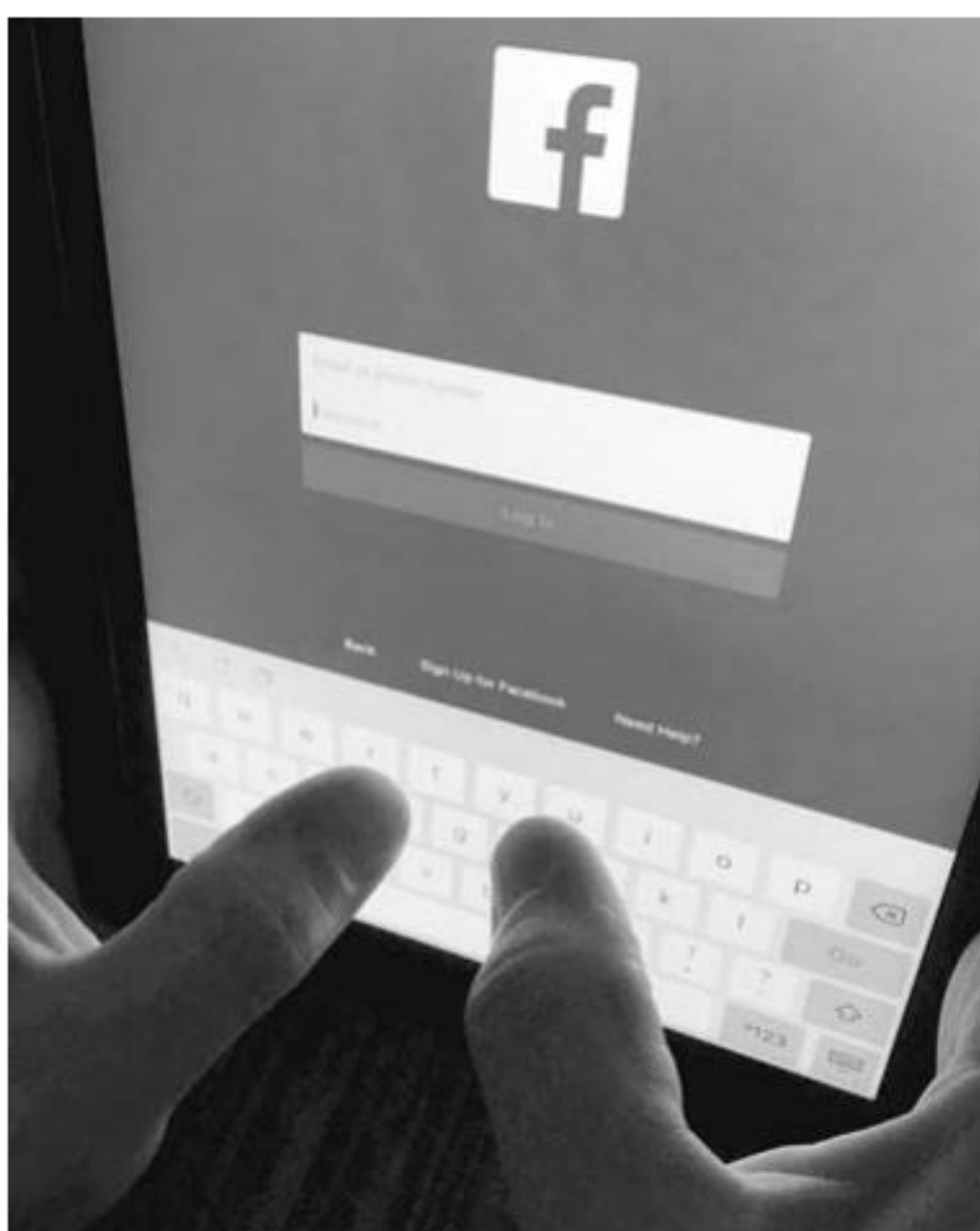
Associated Press

## Did you 'like' Russian propaganda? Facebook will clue you in

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook says it will show users if they followed or "liked" Russia propaganda accounts on its service or on Instagram.


The company said Wednesday it will launch a portal to let people see which accounts of the Internet Research Agency they followed between January 2015 and August 2017. The tool will be available by the end of the year. But it won't show users if they merely saw — or even "liked" — posts from those pages.

Facebook, Google and Twitter testified before Congress this month, acknowledging that agents tied to the Russian government used their platforms to try to meddle with the U.S. elections. Facebook has said that as many as 150 million Facebook and Instagram users may have seen ads from the Internet Research Agency. □




This Monday, June 19, 2017, photo shows a user signing in to Facebook on an iPad, in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press



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## Fed minutes show support for third rate hike this year

By **M. CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Federal Reserve officials generally believe that it'll soon be time for another increase in the Fed's key interest rate. However, a few felt any further rate hikes should be delayed until they see inflation moving higher, minutes of their last meeting revealed.

Minutes of the Fed's Oct. 31-Nov. 1 released Wednesday showed that many officials believed a third rate hike this year will likely be warranted if incoming data leave the medium-term economic outlook unchanged. But "a few" officials remained worried that inflation has failed to accelerate toward the Fed's 2 percent goal as expected. They suggest that the central bank needs to remain cautious in pushing rates higher.

The Fed meets again on Dec. 12-13, and private economists widely expect it will go ahead and raise rates.

The minutes of the last meeting showed there is still a division between those who are worried that the Fed might be moving too slowly amid low unemployment and those still concerned that inflation is falling short of expectations.

The central bank has raised rates twice so far this year, in March and June, pushing its benchmark rate to a still-low level of 1 percent to 1.25 percent. But at three meetings since then, the Fed has left rates unchanged as officials debated the future course of inflation.

The Fed's goal is to manage the economy to promote maximum employment and stable prices, which it defines as inflation rising at an annual rate of 2 percent.

For much of this year, inflation has been falling farther from the Fed's goal. While Fed officials at first blamed temporary factors such as a price war among

# US stocks mostly slip away from latest highs



Trader Robert Charmak, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks mostly slipped away from their latest record highs Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By **MARLEY JAY**  
AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. stocks mostly slipped away from their latest record highs Wednesday as the two former halves of Hewlett-Packard both tumbled, while falling interest rates helped phone companies but hurt banks.

The price of oil jumped on reports OPEC and a group of other countries might extend the cuts in production they made at the start of this year. That took energy companies higher. Hewlett Packard Enterprise sank after it said CEO Meg

Whitman will retire, while printer and PC maker HP lost ground after its latest quarterly report.

Interest rates fell after the Federal Reserve released minutes from its latest meeting, which ended Nov. 1. While most officials were comfortable raising interest rates soon, as investors think they will do in December, a few Fed leaders wanted to wait until there is more evidence inflation is rising. The Fed has suggested it wants to raise rates three more times next year.

"The market certainly doesn't believe it, and

hasn't believed it all along," says Scott Wren, senior global equity strategist for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. He said investors may change their minds as economic reports roll in over the next few weeks, and they may get nervous if they think the Fed will move faster. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped 1.95 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,597.08. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 64.65 points, or 0.3 percent, to 23,526.18. The Nasdaq composite rose 4.88 points, or 0.1 percent, to a record 6,867.36. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 2.13 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,516.76.

All four indexes closed at record highs Tuesday, and on Wednesday most of the companies on the New York Stock Exchange finished higher.

U.S. markets will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday. They will reopen Friday but will close at 1 p.m. ET.

The two main companies that once comprised Hewlett-Packard took the largest losses in the S&P 500. Hewlett Packard En-

terprise, which sells data-center hardware and tech gear, dropped after it announced company President Antonio Neri will replace Whitman as CEO Feb. 1. Whitman became CEO of Hewlett-Packard in 2011 and oversaw its split in 2015. HPE also reported mixed fourth-quarter results.

Analysts said they were surprised by the timing because Whitman suggested last month that she wasn't leaving soon. Like several other analysts, Steven Milunovich of UBS said Neri is a good choice, but that Whitman will be hard to replace. "Whitman's star power could be missed when competing with the likes of Michael Dell, Chuck Robbins, and Ginni Rometty for large enterprise deals," he said, referring to the CEOs of Dell, Cisco Systems and IBM.

HP Enterprise fell \$1.02, or 7.2 percent, to \$13.10. Meanwhile HP Inc., which sells PCs and printers, had a solid quarter but couldn't sustain the gains it's made this year. The stock lost \$1.12, or 5 percent, to \$21.34. It's up 44 percent in 2017. □

## US unemployment benefit aid drops 13,000

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits fell for the first time in three weeks, pushing total applications down to a low 239,000, further evidence of the strength of the labor market.

The NUMBERS: Applications dropped by 13,000 last week after rising by 13,000 the previous week, the Labor Department reported Wednesday.

The four-week average, which smooths out volatility, rose by 1,250 to 239,750. The number of people receiving benefits rose by 36,000 to 1.9 million, still near a 44-year low.

KEY DRIVERS: Applications for unemployment benefits are a proxy for layoffs.

The level of unemployment benefits has been below 300,000 for more than two years, a stretch not equaled in more than four decades.

The government reports that claims processing continues to be disrupted in the Virgin Islands but the ability to take claims has improved in Puerto Rico. Both islands were devastated by hurricanes earlier this year.

THE TAKEAWAY: The weekly unemployment benefits report suggests that the economic recovery that began in mid-2009 is steaming ahead.

Employers added 261,000 jobs in October as the unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent.

The economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a 3

percent rate in the July-September quarter after a 3.1 percent pace in the second quarter.

It marked the first back-to-back quarterly gains of 3 percent or better in three years. □

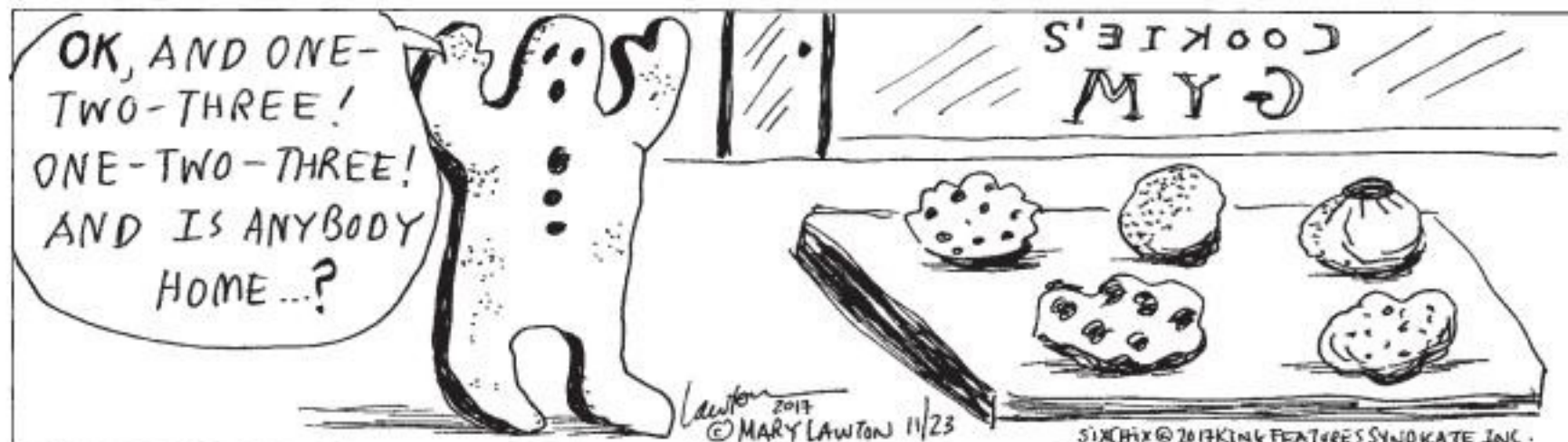
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**Conceptis Sudoku**

5	6					3		9
			1	2	9			
	9		7			4		
	3	9		4	6			
	2		8		7			
		2	5	8				
3	7					5		1

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	1	7	2	3	4	5	9	6
2	9	3	1	6	5	7	4	8
4	5	6	7	9	8	1	2	3
3	6	4	5	8	9	2	7	1
7	8	9	4	2	1	3	6	5
5	2	1	6	7	3	4	8	9
1	3	8	9	4	2	6	5	7
6	4	5	8	1	7	9	3	2
9	7	2	3	5	6	8	1	4

**ACROSS**

- 1 Feel the loss of
- 5 Four months from now
- 10 Pretense; farce
- 14 Greek letter
- 15 Farewell
- 16 Morse
- 17 Take \_; subtract
- 18 Protects
- 20 Rested one's feet
- 21 Partial amount
- 22 Crush
- 23 Flat-headed golf clubs
- 25 Have dinner
- 26 Parodies
- 28 Man of the cloth
- 31 "To be \_ to be..." (Hamlet)
- 32 Lumberjack's leftover
- 34 Actor Kilmer
- 36 Lounge about
- 37 Mary Tyler \_
- 38 Group of quails
- 39 " \_ Father, Who art in..."
- 40 Baffling question
- 41 Less adorned
- 42 Energetic one
- 44 Geometric shape
- 45 Burro
- 46 Boggy area
- 47 Short & plump
- 50 Body of water
- 51 Part of speech: abbr.
- 54 Cold symptom
- 57 Soft cheese
- 58 Part of the foot
- 59 Dishwasher cycle
- 60 Middle \_; historical period
- 61 Encounter
- 62 Drive too fast
- 63 Examination
- 4 Utter
- 5 Bricklayers
- 6 West & Sandler
- 7 \_ with; abounding in
- 8 Mediocre grade
- 9 Embrace
- 10 Rascals
- 11 Circle dance
- 12 Tallies up
- 13 Fit snugly together
- 19 Seize control by force
- 21 Velvety
- 24 Housetop
- 25 Identical
- 26 Song for one
- 27 \_ as a peacock
- 28 Contented cat's sound
- 29 Engage in price-gouging
- 30 Belly button
- 32 Not great, but okay
- 33 Part of a sock
- 35 Minstrel's harp
- 37 May honorees
- 38 Saloons
- 40 Adhesive
- 41 Lark or blue jay
- 43 All for \_; fruitless
- 44 Like Spam or sardines
- 46 Antlered animal
- 47 Con game
- 48 Ripped
- 49 \_ more; again
- 50 Evergreen tree
- 52 Passes away
- 53 In \_; jokingly
- 55 Yrkb. section
- 56 Helpful hint
- 57 Flying mammal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26				27					28			
29				30					31			
32				33					34			
35				36					37			
38				39					40			
41				42					43			
44				45					46			
47				48					49			
50				51					52			
53				54					55			
56				57					58			
59				60					61			
62				63					64			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/23/17

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

SARI	ACTED	BETA
ASAN	BRIAR	OXEN
MAGNACARTA	SCAT	
SPEAR	NESTS	ESS
TEAK	ALLEY	
ABSENT	PORTAL	
PIE	ATHENA	CELL
ELMS	AURED	KNEE
SKIP	CRISIS	CNN
NICKEL	SHREDS	
SCANS	SHOE	
CAR	ITALL	RAFTS
OMIT	EQUESTRIAN	
WEEK	AUGER	MAMA
SOSO	MASKS	STEP

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11/23/17



## A Maine boy with cancer dies after wish for early Christmas

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — A 9-year-old Maine boy with cancer has died a week after his wish for a Christmas celebration was fulfilled. Jacob Thompson's family announced on social media that he died Sunday at Maine Medical Center in Portland. His family thanked those who sent Christmas cards and prayers, saying they brought joy and encouragement to the boy and his family. Jacob was admitted to the hospital in October after four years of battling neuroblastoma, a cancer that starts in the nerve cells and generally affects infants and young children. He loved Christmas and asked for cards. The response was overwhelming. Cards poured in from around the world. Po-

lice organized a caravan for him. The University of Maine hockey team paid a visit. Knowing time was short, his family held a Christmas celebration at the hospital earlier this month that was replete with a tree, gifts and a visit from Santa. "You brought Jacob joy, and you brought us all optimism for the future. Thank you for taking the time, and taking an interest in our sweet boy's journey. Sadly, there are many others like him that we hope you will continue to help," the family wrote Monday on Facebook. The boy loved penguins. His family urged people to make a donation to a penguin rescue group, Operation Gratitude "or pay it forward in your community." □

## NJ woman raises over \$50K for homeless man who helped her

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — A New Jersey woman who was helped by a homeless man when she ran out of gas in Philadelphia has raised more than \$50,000 to help him. Kate McClure started the Gofundme.com campaign earlier this month after she said she ran out of gas on Interstate 95 and a homeless man named Johnny Bobbitt Jr. offered to walk a few blocks to buy her some with his last \$20.

McClure says she didn't have any money to repay him at the time but she's returned to the roadway several times to give him cash, clothes and food. After a few visits, she started the fundraiser with the hopes of using the money toward housing and other expenses for the 34-year-old Bobbitt. Nearly 1,700 people had donated to the campaign as of Wednesday afternoon. □

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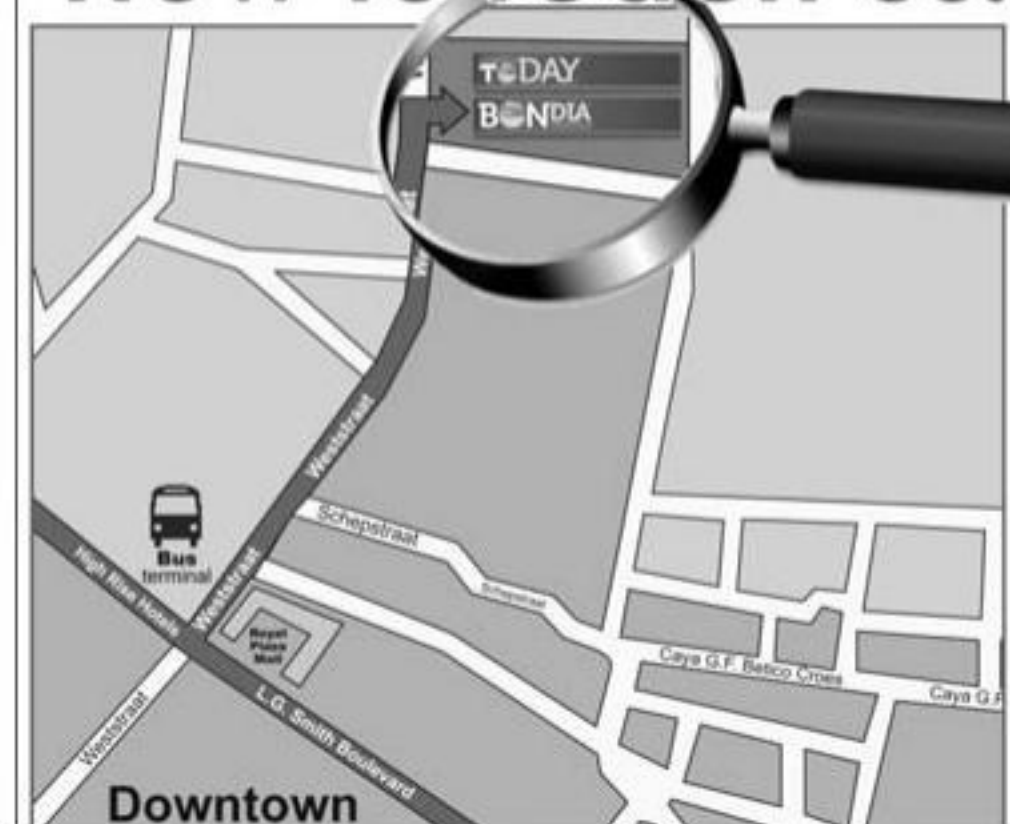
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## U.S. sage grouse policy heading back to square one

By **SCOTT SONNER**  
Associated Press

**SPARKS, Nev. (AP)** — Federal scientists and land managers who've been crafting strategies to protect a ground-dwelling bird's habitat across the American West for nearly two decades are going back to the drawing board under a new Trump administration edict to reassess existing plans condemned by ranchers, miners and energy developers.

Federal officials are wrapping up a series of public meetings with three sessions starting Tuesday in Utah ahead of a Nov. 27 cutoff for comment on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's order last month to consider revisions to land management amendments for the greater sage grouse that were adopted under the Obama administration. Zinke says he wants to make sure the amendments don't harm local economies in 11 western states and allow the states to have maximum control over the efforts within their borders. Conservationists say it's a thinly veiled attempt to allow more livestock grazing and drilling, similar to Trump's efforts to roll back national monument designations, but on a much larger scale. They warn it could land the hen-sized bird on the endangered species list in 2020 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is scheduled to review its



In this April 20, 2013 file photo, male greater sage grouse perform mating rituals for a female grouse, not pictured, on a lake outside Walden, Colo.

Associated Press

2015 decision not to list it. "They appear to be dismantling the whole land-planning amendment system and starting over," said Patrick Donnelly, the Center for Biological Diversity's Nevada state director. "It's revisionist history," he told a Fish and Wildlife Service official during a scoping meeting-turned-brainstorming session at a Sparks hotel-casino Wednesday night. Instead of recording public testimony, agency officials marked up easel pads with lists of criticisms, concerns and suggestions. About 80 participants moved between five breakout groups including "minerals," "livestock grazing," and "wildlife and vegetation." They treaded familiar ground. Disagreement reigned over the size of protective buffer zones around grouse breeding grounds, states' role in setting federal

policy and whether cattle or wild horses cause more habitat degradation. There was general agreement that invasive cheat grass is fueling one of the biggest threats - catastrophic wildfires - but little consensus on what to do about it. "I don't understand why we're starting all over again," shouted a man who briefly disrupted the meeting and refused to provide his name.

Nevada Farm Bureau Vice President Doug Busselman said research increasingly suggests properly regulated grazing reduces fire fuels. But he said existing policy is "taking a restrictive approach ... and then watching massive fires sweep across the landscape, setting up the process for expansion of cheat grass, then more fire." The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee heard the same thing last month

from Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke, a fifth-generation rancher who blames grazing restrictions for a wildfire that wiped out his family's winter grazing allotment this year.

"In the process of placating anti-grazing activists, federal agencies have made the No. 1 threat to the greater sage grouse in Idaho worse," Bedke said. Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, a Republican, filed one of a series of lawsuits aimed at blocking the Obama plans. Conversely, Republican Gov. Matt Mead of Wyoming, Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado and Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana have expressed concern that altering existing plans could undermine efforts to prevent a listing. Nevada GOP Gov. Brian Sandoval also has cautioned against wholesale changes, although he applauded Zinke's recent lifting of a temporary ban on new mining claims across about 15,600 square miles (40,400 square kilometers) adopted under Obama.

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Dan Vermillion said existing protections took a diverse group of stakeholders years to work out.

"Those plans were essential to keeping sage grouse from becoming endangered," he wrote in a Nov. 7 letter to Zinke.

That's the message Karen

Boeger delivered in Sparks. "We all duked it out on these plans," said Boeger, a retired teacher and member of the Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers who previously served on a Bureau of Land Management advisory board. "We've hardly gotten out of the chute. Let's give it a chance."

The bureau's acting deputy director, John Ruhs, understands the frustration.

"A lot of folks have been engaged in this topic for a long time. Some have been at the table going back 15 years or more," said Ruhs, who's worked for the agency in Nevada, Oregon, Colorado and Idaho.

"We're trying to find the best methods to allow all uses of the land to occur and still ensure protection of habitat," he said. "It's a tall order."

Donnelly, whose Arizona-based group has sued over failure to list hundreds of species, said the intent of the Obama amendments "was very clear: Prevent the listing of the sage grouse." That goal seems to have gotten lost, he said.

"We heard a lot about mineral withdrawals and local collaboration, but all in the name of what?" Donnelly asked. "Are we still committed to conserving sage grouse, or is the intention to mine and drill every acre of the West? If that's the case, we are plunging head-long toward listing the grouse." □

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24/7



# David Cassidy: A rocking romancer to millions of young fans

By FRAZIER MOORE  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — David Cassidy could sell the heck out of uncertainty.

"I Think I Love You," the smash hit that in 1970 launched the Partridge Family musical group plus the ABC comedy-with-songs show of the same name, found Cassidy center stage delivering such lyrics as "I think I love you, so what am I so afraid of?/ I'm afraid that I'm not sure of a love there is no cure for."

There was no doubt: At 20, Cassidy was the radiant man-boy to help usher young girls (and young boys, for that matter) into the untold mysteries of pubescence, adolescence, romance and rock 'n' roll. For all that, millions knew they loved him.

Within a few years, those legions of fans would outgrow him, just as Cassidy would outgrow himself, or, at least, what had made him a superstar. His cherubic looks would fade along with his popularity; his laddish proto-Farah-Fawcett shag would thin. It needn't have shocked him or anybody else; the odds of sustaining that white-hot level of success were no less great than for his having been ignited as a star in the first place. Lightning seldom strikes even once, much less twice.

Cassidy, who announced earlier this year that he had been diagnosed with dementia, died Tuesday surrounded by his family. No further details were immediately available, but publicist JoAnn Geffen said on Saturday that Cassidy was in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hospital suffering from organ failure.

"The Partridge Family" aired from 1970-74 and was intended at first as a vehicle for Shirley Jones, the Oscar-winning actress and Cassidy's stepmother. Jones played Shirley Partridge, a widow with five children with whom she forms a popular act that travels on a psychedelic bus. The cast also featured Cassidy as eldest son and

family heartthrob Keith Partridge; Susan Dey, later of "L.A. Law" fame, as sibling Laurie Partridge and Danny Bonaduce as sibling Danny Partridge.

"The Partridge Family" never cracked the top 10 in TV ratings, but the recordings under their name, mostly featuring Cassidy, Jones and session players, produced real-life musical hits and made Cassidy a real-life musical superstar. "I Think I Love You" was the Partridges' best-known song, spending three weeks on top of the Billboard chart at a time when other hit singles included James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' "The Tears of a Clown." The group also reached the top 10 with "I'll Meet You Halfway" and "Doesn't Somebody Want to be Wanted," and Cassidy had a solo hit with "Cherish."

"In two years, David Cassidy has swept hurricane-like into the pre-pubescent lives of millions of American girls," Rolling Stone magazine noted in 1972. "Leaving: six and a half million long-playing albums and singles; 44 television programs; David Cassidy lunch boxes; David Cassidy coloring books and David Cassidy pens; not to mention several millions of teen magazines, wall stickers, love beads, posters and photo albums."

Cassidy's appeal faded after the show went off the air, although he continued to tour, record and act over the next 40 years, his albums including "Romance" and the awkwardly titled "Didn't You Used To Be?" He had a hit with "I Write the Songs" before Barry Manilow's chart-topping version and success overseas with "The Last Kiss," featuring backing vocals from Cassidy admirer George Michael. He made occasional stage and television appearances, including an Emmy-nominated performance on "Police Story."

Even while "The Partridge Family" was still in prime-

time, Cassidy worried that he was being mistaken for the wholesome character he played. He posed naked for Rolling Stone in 1972, when he confided that he had dropped acid as a teenager and smoked pot in front of the magazine's reporter as he watched an episode of "The Partridge Family" and mocked his own acting.

Cassidy would endure personal and financial troubles. He was married and divorced three times, battled alcoholism, was arrested for drunk driving and in 2015 filed for bankruptcy. Cassidy had two children, musician Beau Cassidy and actress Katie Cassidy, with whom he acknowledged having a distant relationship. "I wasn't her father. I



In this Aug. 8, 2009, file photo, actor-singer David Cassidy arrives at the ABC Disney Summer press tour party in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

was her biological father but I didn't raise her," he told People magazine in 2017. "She has a completely different life." Cassidy himself was estranged

from his father. Born in New York City in 1950, he was the son of actors Jack Cassidy and Evelyn Ward and half brother of entertainer Shaun Cassidy. □

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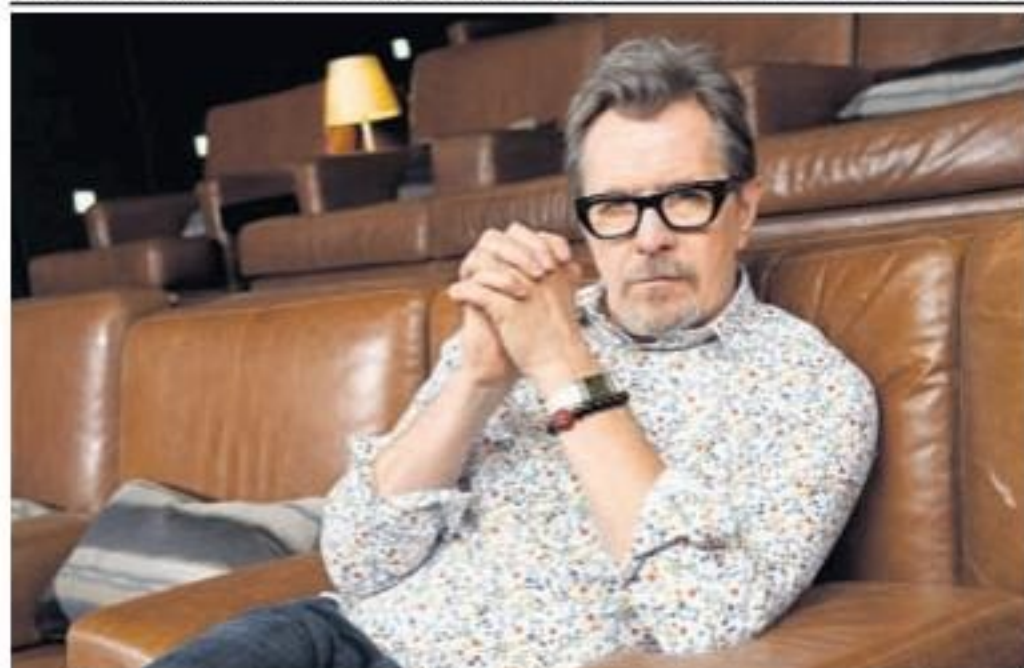
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In this Sept. 12, 2017 photo, actor Gary Oldman, who plays Winston Churchill in the film "Darkest Hour," poses for a portrait during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

## As Churchill, Oldman performs his greatest disappearing act

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**TORONTO (AP)** — It's a long distance from Sid Vicious to Winston Churchill, and a greater leap, still, from Dracula to "Darkest Hour." Gary Oldman, character-actor maverick, has taken up perhaps his biggest — and most buttoned-down — challenge. For even a veteran chameleon like Oldman who has a way of hiding in plain sight, the task of tackling such a heroic titan of 20th century history is a leap. If he can disappear behind just glasses (2011's "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy") or merely a mustache (1989's "The Firm"), what feats of transformation can he accomplish with a pile of prosthetics and a heap of makeup?

The answer is a swaggering, full-throated metamorphosis that has made Oldman the early favorite to win best actor at the Oscars. It's a part that Oldman grants is a personal mountain peak.

"It's sort of like my Lear," Oldman said in an interview over coffee. "And I don't rule that out. There are some parts still left in the ol' boy."

An Academy Awards nomination would be only the second for the 59-year-old Oldman. (He was nominated for "Tinker Tailor.") His shape-shifting career and preference for privacy has sometimes kept him out of the spotlight, even while his explosive ferocity ("Leon: The Professional," "State of Grace," "True Romance") made him a thespian idol. That Oldman is an actor's actor is fitting in the case of "Darkest Hour." Director Joe Wright ("Atonement," "Pride & Prejudice") depicts Churchill as an actor, himself, who's playing a part. With a Homberg hat and cigar as his costume, he rallies 1940 Britain against pacifism in the face of Adolf Hitler. Churchill, an unpopular figure when he became prime minister, is captured in private self-doubt and public grandeur, as he prods Parliament in famous speeches,

like when he warned that with inaction Britain would "sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister"

"Our film is about oratory and how words can galvanize the people and move them and rally them. Even simple, direct Anglo-Saxon words," says Oldman. "I felt it was refreshing because we've now got to a world where we communicate with emojis. If Churchill saw an emoji, I think he'd turn in his bloody grave."

"Darkest Hour" spans just 28 days, when Churchill is thrust into power and Germany is invading France. That Churchill has been so frequently played — among them Richard Burton, Albert Finney, Brian Cox and John Lithgow — gave Oldman pause, since they had, he says, "contaminated" his and our impression of the man.

"I danced around it for a long time. I think I was afraid, to be honest with you," says Oldman. "But at the end of the day I couldn't give up saying those words. And what's the worst that can happen? You stink. They're not going to come arrest you or shoot you. I thought: Jump off the cliff and see what happens."

Wright says it took five months to carefully calibrate the makeup and prosthetics: "Too much and you would lose Gary," he says. Still, Oldman is only just visible underneath.

"The greatest actors I've ever worked with have extraordinarily powerful imaginations," says Wright. "That imagination Gary is able to project with this strength of power of will out of himself." The hours of makeup meant Oldman often arrived on set at 3 a.m. His average day, he estimates, was 19 hours long. By the time the rest of the cast and crew arrived, Oldman was already in character. "Joe never saw me as Gary for three months," says the actor.

"If you're going to do a part like this, you can't go in kicking and screaming about the makeup. You've

got to surrender to it," Oldman says. "Maybe day 45 you come in, you're sleep deprived and you're a bit grumpy. But the fruits of it were such that I could put myself in a frame of mind. Once it was all in, I was in it. I had a ball. My thinking was that if at 65, Churchill could take on Hitler, then I could sit in a makeup chair for three hours."

"Darkest Hour" isn't particularly imbued with political relevance for today, though some might watch it pining for Churchill's leadership. It was purposefully crafted, Oldman says, to place Churchill in his time, not ours. "What we do now, too often, there's a lot revisionist history," he says. "We tend to look at the past through the lens of the 21st century."

Oldman, himself, is no fan of political correctness. In a 2014 Playboy interview he criticized the hypocrisy of the outcry against Mel Gibson's anti-Semitic tirade. Oldman said everyone is guilty of such slurs and he referred to Hollywood as "run by Jews." Oldman apologized profusely, including on "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

Oldman has previously struggled with alcohol addiction (he was charged with drunk driving in 1991) but now doesn't drink. In August he married his fifth wife, Gisele Schmidt, an art curator.

Asked if he has strong political beliefs, Oldman replies: "I like to know what's going on. But I'm not an opinion-maker and I'm not running for Congress."

I pretty much keep to myself these days. We've all got opinions."

Oldman directed once before in 1997's searing family drama "Nil By Mouth," a film that drew heavily from Oldman's own childhood growing up in working-class East London. (Oldman even wanted to cast his mother.) He plans to be directing again next year from a script not his own, "but the fit is good," he says. In the meantime, Churchill still has a hold on him. □

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<p>BEN AFFLECK   GAL GADOT</p> <p><b>JUSTICE LEAGUE</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-THURS 5:40   8:20 FRI 5:40   8:20   10:50 SAT 3:10   5:40   8:20   10:50 SUN &amp; HOL 3:10   5:40   8:20</p> <p>MON-FRI 4:15   6:45   9:30 SAT, SUN &amp; HOL 1:45   4:15   6:40   9:30</p>	<p>CHRIS HEMSWORTH   TOM HIDDLESTON</p> <p><b>THE THOR RAGNAROK</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-SUN &amp; HOL 6:40   9:20</p>
<p>JULIA ROBERTS   OWEN WILSON</p> <p><b>Wonder</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-FRI 3:45   6:10   8:40 SAT, SUN &amp; HOL 3:45   6:10   8:40   11:05</p>	<p>STEVEN YEUN   KRISTIN CHENOWETH</p> <p><b>THE STAR</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-FRI 4:40 SAT-SUN &amp; HOL 2:40   4:40</p>
<p>KENNETH BRANAGH   PENELOPE CRUZ</p> <p><b>MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS</b></p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-THUR 4:15   6:40   9:10 FRI 4:15   6:40   9:10   11:35 SAT 1:50   4:15   6:40   9:10   11:35 SUN 1:50   4:15   6:40   9:10</p>	<p>MARK WAHLBERG   WILL FERRELL</p> <p><b>DADDY'S HOME 2</b></p> <p>MON-FRI 5:00   7:10   9:25 SAT-SUN &amp; HOL 2:50   5:00   7:10   9:25</p>

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## Paul Reiser's new comedy recalls the world of Johnny Carson

By FRAZIER MOORE  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Her-r-r-r-re's Paul Reiser!

You can find him on the Amazon comedy "Red Oaks," whose third and final season was recently released with Reiser as the power-packing president of a New Jersey country club in the 1980s.

You can also find him on the just-posted second season of Netflix's "Stranger Things" as a government scientist who may not be quite what he seems.

And though you won't see him on Hulu's "There's . . . Johnny!" Reiser is very much part of this comedic peek behind the scenes of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" circa 1972. All seven episodes, with Reiser as co-creator and -writer, are now available for viewing.

"The fact that I suddenly have three different shows on three different streaming platforms suggests that I'm clever and I planned this. I planned nothing," says Reiser before joking that his goal now is to be on EVERY platform and every device, "even when you shut it off."

The 60-year-old Reiser, whose acting career began with a bang in the films "Diner," "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Aliens," and who starred in NBC's 1990s sitcom hit "Mad About You,"

is also a veteran standup comic who appeared many times on Carson's "Tonight Show" during its heyday. His experience on Johnny's couch, coupled with his earlier memories of staying up late on school nights to catch Johnny's monologue and the comedians whose careers he launched with a sanctifying thumbs-up, spurred Reiser to develop "There's . . . Johnny!" with partner David Steven Simon.

That took more than a decade, much of it spent securing the support of the Carson estate, which has furnished clips from vintage 1972 shows that are inserted into the comedic narrative. It is through these snippets that Carson resides in "There's . . . Johnny!" No actor plays him.

This contrasts with Showtime's contemporaneous dramedy "I'm Dying Up Here," set at a 1970s Sunset Strip comedy club whose up-and-coming comics dream of a career-making shot on "The Tonight Show." Carson is portrayed by Dylan Baker.

While paying no less reverence to Carson's lofty stature, "There's . . . Johnny!" is instead a TV workplace comedy. Its action centers on 19-year-old Carson-idolizing Andy Klavin, who stumbles into a job as gofer on the "Tonight Show" staff. Fresh from Nebraska, wide-

eyed Andy (Ian Nelson) works closely with a fellow staffer, jaded Hollywood child Joy (Jane Levy), who treats Andy's naivete with exasperation and wonderment. All of the characters are fictional, other than Freddy de Cordova, Carson's longtime executive producer and ring-a-ding-ding consigliere, who is played with gusto by Tony Danza.

Reiser recalls that it was de Cordova who served as Carson's liaison with the staff and, until they stepped onstage, with Johnny's guests, too.

"I did the show a lot and, other than sitting there next to Johnny on camera, I never hung out with him, never SAW him," Reiser says. "He was this looming presence in the building — it was all Johnny's world — but even when he was going from his office to makeup or the stage, all I saw was an elbow rounding a corner or the back of his head. That was the feel that I wanted to put in the show: You know he's there, it's all about him, but it's only on the air where you see him." It was on the air that Carson took form for the nation as an intimately felt companion whose impact and reach is almost impossible to fathom today.

"He was the GUY," says Reiser. "Johnny was a part of our lives in a way I don't



This Nov. 16, 2017 photo shows actor-producer Paul Reiser in New York. Reiser stars in the Netflix series, "Stranger Things," and produced, co-created and wrote a 7-episode Hulu series, "There's . . . Johnny!," a comedic peek behind the scenes of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" circa 1972.

Associated Press

think any television show or performer can be today. You couldn't record the show, so you had to stay up until 11:30 to watch, or you missed out.

"There are people 40 and up who remember Johnny and still miss him. But you don't need any prior experience or knowledge of Johnny Carson to enjoy our show. It's not ABOUT him. He's the background. And I like to think that it will make people not familiar with him happy that they now know about him."

"There's . . . Johnny!" takes place a decade into Carson's 30-year reign as "King of Late Night," just months

after he had brought "Tonight" from New York to Burbank, California.

There, Carson truly blossomed as an arbiter of Hollywood hipness, which he skillfully played against his boyish, middle-American appeal.

Meanwhile, the world outside Carson's studio was in turmoil with Watergate, the Vietnam war and social upheaval. No wonder viewers flocked to "The Tonight Show" to share some reassuring laughs with Johnny before bedtime. Now "There's . . . Johnny!" delights in showing what was going on, out of sight and off the air. □

## Christopher Plummer has this to say about retirement — never

By JOHN CARUCCI  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** —

At 87, Christopher Plummer isn't just working — he's busy.

He has five movies scheduled for release, including "A Christmas Carol" origin story called "The Man Who Invented Christmas." And he plans to work until the very end, literally.

"I love my work. I love what I do. And I'm so sorry for a majority of people who do not like their jobs, and can't wait to retire, which of course, is death.

I'll never retire.

I hope to drop dead onstage. That's what I really want to do."

Plummer, who plays Ebenezer Scrooge in the film, recently toured a Charles Dickens exhibit at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. Plummer admits that Dickens, especially "A Christmas Carol," was a big part of his upbringing.

"All my family had grown up on Scrooge, and some of them had actually seen Dickens lecture and tell stories. So you took it for granted that it was part of Christ-

mas cheer," Plummer said.

Plummer also has begun shooting scenes for the upcoming Ridley Scott film "All the Money in the World," replacing Kevin Spacey as billionaire J. Paul Getty. Spacey was ousted from the movie in the wake of a series of sexual misconduct allegations.

The actor credits his wife for maintaining his stamina.

"I have a very good chef as a wife. She knows how to cook wonderfully balanced food. She's a real artist at it, and that's one good reason." □



In this July 25, 2013, file photo, Christopher Plummer poses for a portrait at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press



# Just in time for Thanksgiving dinner: traceable turkeys

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press

**WICHITA, Kan. (AP)** — Turkey farmer Darrell Glaser buys his Thanksgiving bird at the local grocery store, just like most folks.

But this Thanksgiving season, the Texas producer will be able to find out where the Honeysuckle White turkey he puts into his shopping cart was raised — and even know if it is one of the birds from his own Milam County farm.

Turkey buyers in select Texas markets will be able to either text or enter on the Honeysuckle White website the code found on the tag on the packaged bird to find out where it was raised and get information about the farm's location, view farm photos and read the farmer's message.

"What traceability does is just allow us to connect with the consumer," Glaser said. "And I think over time there has been a disconnect. People have kind of lost where their food comes from and this is a way to re-establish that line of communication." Glaser is an independent farmer who raises about 600,000 birds a year for Cargill's Honeysuckle White brand, and is among four Texas farmers participating in the market test. The traceable turkeys in the pilot project won't cost more than untagged birds, and after the test the Minneapolis-based Cargill Inc. and its Honeysuckle White brand says it will assess its effectiveness and value to determine further implementation of the digital technology and any price adjustments.

The pilot project marks the agribusiness giant's entry into a burgeoning farm-to-table movement driven by people who want to know where their food comes from and how it was produced. It is also a sign of the success driven by sustainable food advocates who have been promoting such connections as a way for farmers to market locally grown and raised foods. "When the big companies see that success, they are going to jump in and try to



In this Oct. 16, 2017 photo, turkeys stand in a poultry barn at Smotherman Farms near Waco, Texas.

make money off it," said Mary Fund, executive director of the Kansas Rural Center, an advocacy organization that promotes ecologically and socially responsible food systems. Big agribusiness companies like Cargill and Tyson were instrumental in concentrating poultry production on farms and processing entities — eliminating the infrastructure that used to be there to support smaller

local producers, Fund said. Now Cargill is in a sense "turning back to that model" by trying to tap into the desire that consumers have for an identifiable product. "It is a tough thing because the local and regional food production and marketing system is not really able to satisfy the demand that is out there," Fund said. "So we are not naive in thinking that you are going to be able to grow enough

turkeys or poultry at a real local level and feed everybody."

The conglomerate's Honeysuckle White brand is the nation's third largest turkey producer, and is among the top five companies that collectively raise 65 percent of U.S. turkey production, said Simon Shane, an industry consultant and adjunct professor at North Carolina State University.

"Will it influence the rest

of the industry? Only in respect to branded items, there is no point in doing it for generics," Shane said. "But the industry is moving over to brands."

The pilot project will inform the company as to the value of supply chain transparency to consumers and its impact on sales, said Deborah Socha, Honeysuckle Brand manager. Based on those findings, Cargill will develop its digital supply chain in the United States and globally.

Honeysuckle White touts an internal 2014 study of turkey consumers which found 44 percent thought it was important for companies to be transparent, and a 2016 study from Nielsen Global Ingredients that found 73 percent of consumers feel positively about companies that are transparent about how its food products are made.

"Honeysuckle White has been listening to what the consumers have said and found that when it came to feeding their family, they really want to feel confident in knowing where and how the food is raised," Socha said. □



© Associated Press Photo

In this Oct. 16, 2017 photo, baby turkeys stand in a poultry barn at Smotherman Farms near Waco, Texas.

Associated Press